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Cherries claim
vital away point

MATCH REPORT - PAGE 4

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Stags maintain impressive run - page 5

Fraser's bout of Blues

Heartbreaker for record-breaker as Chelsea come on strong to claim win

SAINTS 1 CHELSEA 2

FRASER Forster broke Saints' shut-out record – but could not stop Chelsea from ending the club's six-match unbeaten run.

Shane Long gave Saints a half-time lead with his tenth goal of the season, cutely dinking the ball over Thibaut Courtois and into the bottom of the far in the 42nd minute.

But Chelsea responded with two goals in the last 15 minutes, from Cesc Fabregas and Branislav Ivanovic, to snatch a dramatic 2-1 victory.

Both goals were a disappointing way for Forster's record run to have been broken.

● Match report and reaction: see pages 2-3



FALSE DAWN: Shane Long celebrates netting the opening goal. Inset: Record breaker Fraser Forster



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Saints 1 Chelsea 2

Saints unable to banish Blues



Steven Davis goes on a run

FRASER Forster broke Saints' shut-out record – but could not stop Chelsea from ending the club's six-match unbeaten run.

Shane Long gave Saints a half-time lead with his tenth goal of the season, cutely dinking the ball over Thibaut Courtois and into the bottom of the far in the 42nd minute, writes Simon Walter.

But Chelsea responded with two goals in the last 15 minutes, from Cesc Fabregas and Branislav Ivanovic, to snatch a dramatic 2-1 victory.

Both goals were a disappointing way for Forster's record run to have been broken and cruel on Saints who deservedly led for 33 minutes.

Forster had set a new Saints' shut-out record in the 34th minute but the new record was set at 708 minutes when Fabregas's curling cross sneaked in at the far post as a flummoxed Forster - who saw the ball late - watched on.

And with Saints at least looking set for a point, Ivanovic beat Virgil Van Dijk to head in the 88th-minute winner from Willian's corner.

It did not take long to be reminded of the array of riches that Saints were up against.

Pedro was injured early on but Guus Hiddink was able to replace the multi-trophy-winning former Barcelona man with Brazilian international Oscar inside the first five minutes.

This Saints side has no shortage of class either and they gave as good as they got during a fascinating first half, that culminated in the



Shane Long celebrates his goal

TEAMCHECK

- Saints made two changes to the team that won 1-0 at Swansea a fortnight ago, with Charlie Austin coming in for his first start in place of Graziano Pelle.
- Right-back Cedric Soares replaced James Ward-Prowse, allowing Steven Davis to return to his customary attacking midfield role after playing as a right wing-back at Swansea.
- Chelsea started with the same XI that beat Manchester City 5-1 in the FA Cup last Sunday.
- So there were two changes to the Chelsea team that won their last Premier

League game by the same scoreline against Newcastle United two weeks ago.

● Left-back Baba Rahman came in for the injured John Terry, with Branislav Ivanovic, and John Obi Mikel for Matic.

● SAINTS: Fraser Forster, Cedric Soares, Jordy Clasie, Jose Fonte, Shane Long, Steven Davis, Oriol Romeu, Virgil van Dijk, Ryan Bertrand, Charlie Austin, Matt Targett.

● SUBS: Maarten Stekelenburg, Maya Yoshida, Sadio Mane, Dusan Tadic, Cuco Martina, James Ward-Prowse, Graziano Pelle.

opening goal.

Very attractive though Chelsea's build-up play was, they could have no complaints.

Van Dijk whipped over a tempting cross that created the first chance of the game for Long, which the Irishman headed over at the far

post.

Steven Davis cleared off the line following a Chelsea corner and Jordy Clasie's deflected drive took a deflection led to a flag kick that was punched clear by Courtois.

Oriol Romeu was alert to the opportunity but when

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Southampton's Matt Targett gets in position to block Eden Hazard's cross

he was tackled by Willian the ball just evaded the outstretched boot of Charlie Austin.

Davis was booked for foul on Fabregas just inside the Saints half midway through the first half.

There continued to be chances at both ends.

Cedric's header clear from Eden Hazard's cross after a driving run from Willian kept Chelsea at bay.

Then Van Dijk who outmuscled Branislav Ivanovic and laid the ball off to Charlie Austin, who sent a curler across the face of goal that Gary Cahill cleared for a corner.

Diego Costa, the last player to score against Forster last March, tripped over his own feet as he closed in on the Saints area, with the club's shut-out record in tantalising reach.

But Forster was soon called on to make his first save of note, diving low to his left to keep out Oscar's 20-yarder before Costa, having turned Van Dijk, unleashed a 25-yarder that flew high and wide on 30 minutes.

Davis's pass into Austin saw the new man spin and shoot in the same slick movement but his low, powerful left-footer from the edge of the box was narrowly wide of Courtois's left-hand post.

Saints continued to defend well against Costa as he attempted to thread his way through a packed penalty area as the clock ticked to the 34th minute and confirmation of a new goalkeeping record for the club.

Forster raised his hand in acknowledgement of the applause that greeted the milestone.

Willian was a mesmeric presence in the Chelsea midfield as the visitors played keep-ball for several minutes, but they continued to be restricted to shots from long range for the most part.

Saints' confidence in defence was evident and Long is not short of the stuff himself.

Capitalising on a poor header from Baba, he took the chance to



Southampton's Charlie Austin, left, and Chelsea's Baba Rahman battle for the ball

score the 42nd-minute opening goal with composure and alacrity, sending a deft dink over the diving Courtois and into the far corner.

Long now has ten goals for the season, which puts him clear of Pelle at the top of Saints' goal charts for the season.

Chelsea began the second half brightly. Kenedy, on at half-time for Baba, made an important clearance but Mikel headed wide from close range after Cahill had hooked a Willian corner back into the danger zone.

Hazard's inviting cross from the right was volleyed over on the run by Costa at the far post.

Clearly frustrated, the Spaniard gave away free-kick for grappling with Van Dijk and was then

booked for a foul on the Dutchman as he chased down a through ball.

Former Chelsea man Bertrand also went in Martin Atkinson's book when he raised an arm in a challenge for an aerial ball with Costa.

With tempers short, Clasie was also booked for a foul on Willian.

Austin was just beaten to Long's cross from the left and Van Dijk fired just wide from the resulting corner when, midway through the second half, Long hobbled off to be replaced by Graziano Pelle.

Koeman broke the tension with a touch of comedy as tussled with

Davis provided a touch of class with a lobbed pass with the outside of his right boot. It took out several blue shirts before land-

ing in Austin's path. Austin went down under Cahill's challenge, with his appeals for a penalty turned down.

But with 15 minutes left, Forster conceded his first goal in 708 minutes.

Cesc Fabregas equalised after Costa had found him with a pass from the byline.

Enraged, Chelsea went in search of a second. A brilliant Davis block denied Costa but with two minutes remaining Ivanovic climbed above Van Dijk and headed Willian's corner past Forster.

A Courtois save denied sub Sadio Mane, on for Austin in the 78th minute, a late leveller.

Koeman: Chelsea punished us

SAINTS boss Ronald Koeman admitted that Chelsea are a better side than they were in October after his side was cruelly denied its first Premier League double against the London giants.

Leading 1-0 against Chelsea five months after their sensational 3-1 win at Stamford Bridge, Saints were on course to complete a second league win of the season against the Blues for the first time since the mid-Eighties.

But two goals in the last 15 minutes – a curler from Cesc Fabregas that may have been intended as a cross followed by Branislav Ivanovic's late header – denied Saints.

Koeman said: "Of course, we're disappointed. We were leading after a good first half and scored at a good moment, just before half-time after some good defending."

"We had a good feeling but Chelsea are better than they were at the start of the season."

"They are more confident and are at a better level than before and they punished us in the second half."

"They have very good players so we needed to be perfect in the second half but lost more goals."

"We didn't have the same ball possession and dropped back too much but they didn't really create open chances."

"We were unlucky with the first goal. It's not really a shot, it's a cross, and we were disappointed to concede from a set-piece."

"It was the first time in one-and-a-half seasons that we've conceded from a corner kick."

"We deserved more for our performance but sometimes you get more than you deserve."

Koeman was reluctant to comment on Saints' penalty appeal for Gary Cahill's challenge on Charlie Austin, which would have given the home side a 2-0 lead.

He continued: "It's difficult from my position, I'll have to watch it back. It was an important decision but you get situations that help you and some that go against you. I can't complain, referees and linesmen have a difficult job."



DISAPPOINTED: Ronald Koeman

Watford 0 AFC Bournemouth 0

Cherries keep England prospect quiet to bag a share of spoils

ODION Ighalo endured a frustrating afternoon as Watford's top scorer missed a number of chances in a goalless draw with Bournemouth.

Ighalo has found the net 15 times already this season but the Nigerian was unable to break the deadlock at Vicarage Road, with the best chance of the game seeing him head over from six yards in the second half.

The stalemate does little for either side's league ambitions as Watford remain ninth in the table while Bournemouth stay 15th, five points above the relegation zone.

England's assistant manager Ray Lewington was watching on from the stands at Vicarage Road, perhaps to check on Troy Deeney ahead of Euro 2016, but the Hornets captain, like his strike partner, struggled for his usual potency on his 250th appearance for the club.

Deeney and Ighalo have scored 22 of Watford's 29 league goals so far this season but if Quique Sanchez Flores' side have any ambitions of carrying their excellent campaign into the European spots, they will need both to regain form fast. In their last 18 combined appearances, the duo now have only four goals between them.

Ighalo and Deeney both went close to breaking the deadlock early on as first Ighalo motored away from both Steve Cook and Harry Arter but his shot was saved, then Deeney skewed wide from Juan Carlos Paredes' cross.

Bournemouth suffered a blow when Junior Stanislas hobbled off clutching his thigh in the 23rd minute and he was replaced by Max Gradel, the Ivorian forward who joined the Cherries in the summer but has been out since August with a knee injury.

The visitors were struggling to convert possession into chances although Benik Afobe was unfortunate not to go through one-on-one after he was flagged offside, with replays suggesting he was level.

Composure in the final third was lacking at both ends as the second half began, with Josh King blazing Matt Ritchie's cross over the bar before Watford's Nordin Amrabat air-kicked a half-volley inside the box, much to the away fans' delight.

Bournemouth now looked the more likely to end the stalemate as Arter unleashed a fizzing drive on the hour, which drew an excellent save from Heurelho Gomes at full stretch.

Watford, however, held on and should have won it in the 67th minute when Amrabat dug out a cross from the byline but Ighalo, unchallenged, headed over from six yards.

The Hornets forward continued to pose a threat but his usually pinpoint finishing also continued to desert him, as he sliced a right-footed shot high and wide with 14 minutes left.

It was the last time either side looked like stealing a winner as an underwhelming contest ended honourably even.



Watford's Troy Deeney (centre) and Bournemouth's Harry Arter (left) compete for the ball



Tempers flare between Bournemouth's Joshua King and Watford's Miguel Britos

Leicester turn up title heat

LEONARDO ULLOA's late strike clinched Leicester a 1-0 home win against Norwich and lifted his side five points clear at the top of the Premier League.

The Argentinian forward turned home Marc Albrighton's cross from close range in the 89th minute to ensure Leicester stole a march on their title rivals.

It was only Ulloa's third goal of the season but could prove crucial as both Tottenham and Arsenal are in action on Sunday, while Manchester City take on Liverpool in the Capital One Cup final.

Defeat for Norwich, out of the relegation zone on goal difference, piles the pressure on manager Alex Rae, whose side's 2-2 draw against West Ham last time out halted a five-game losing streak.

Marko Arnautovic's double ensured a second straight league win for Stoke, whose 2-1 victory over Aston Villa inflicted a 17th league defeat of the season on the bottom club.

Arnautovic struck twice in five minutes early in the second half to put Stoke in control, converting a 51st-minute penalty after Ashley Westwood's foul on Phil Bardsley before turning home Xherdan Shaqiri's cross from close range soon after.

Leandro Bacuna pulled one back for Villa with his first goal of the season in the 79th minute, but Remi Garde's side remain eight points adrift of safety.

Sam Allardyce endured an unhappy return to Upton Park as Sunderland slipped to a 1-0 defeat against West Ham in the 12.45pm kick-off.

Michail Antonio's first-half goal, which extended West Ham's unbeaten home run to 13 matches, left Allardyce empty-handed and the Black Cats stuck in the relegation zone.

Yet the former Hammers boss, who left the London club in May last year, will be wondering how his side did not take something from the game after Jermain Defoe and Jack Rodwell missed glorious second-half chances.



Leicester City's Leonardo Ulloa celebrates his goal

AFC Totton 2 Slimbridge 0

Stags shut out Slimbridge to maintain good run of form

AFC TOTTON kept up their impressive run of form with a 2-0 home win over Slimbridge this afternoon.

Goals by Mike Gosney and Mark Gamble ensured Steve Hollick's men made it just one defeat in the last ten games in the Southern One South & West.

With Pat Wilson away on a coaching course, Tony Rolls was recalled to partner Ian Oliver in central defence. Up front, Mark Gamble recovered from a sickness bug to get his first start for the Stags.

Totton took ten minutes to settle into the game, their first chance coming when Nick Watts' deep free-kick from the left just eluded Rolls at the far post.

A minute later the home side took the lead with a goal that Slimbridge keeper George Burton will not easily forget – for all the wrong reasons.

Spotting the keeper off his line, Mike GOSNEY improvised with a quickly taken, lofted free-kick from 35-yards that had Burton frantically back pedalling.

He looked to have it covered, but fell onto the post as he attempted to gather and dropped the ball over the line.

With an attacking quartet like Watts, Gosney, Gamble and Nathaniel Sherborne at their disposal, the Stags were a handful going forward.

With 22 minutes gone Watts surged into space down the right and delivered a driven cross which, frustratingly for Gamble, was a matter of inches too high for him.

Despite the absence of the experienced Wilson, Totton stayed well organised at the back until just after the half hour mark when Jamie Martin was presented with a couple of free headers, planting one over and glancing the other well wide.

That seemed to encourage the visitors and suddenly there was panic in the Totton rear-guard with keeper Steve Mowthorpe called upon to block out Alex Hoyle's blast before Oliver came to the rescue by heading behind for a corner.

Having soaked-up that pressure, Totton attempted a quick 43rd minute breakaway, but Gosney was stopped in his tracks by a crude challenge from Slimbridge skipper Hoyle who was promptly booked by referee James Robinson.

Totton had more pressure to absorb at the start of the second-half, much to manager Steve Hollick's annoyance.

But, following half chances for young Jake Burgess and Gamble they came close to doubling their lead when Marc Diaper stretched out



DANGERMAN: Mike Gosney opened the scoring for AFC Totton



Mark Gamble celebrates netting AFC Totton's points-clinching second goal

a boot at the back post but couldn't quite connect with Gosney's delivery.

Diaper then had a decent effort turned away by keeper Burton after linking-up with Gamble on the left.

But there were still nervous moments for the Stags with Adam Mace's free-kick creating havoc before bouncing behind at Martin firing wide amid more mayhem in the

home area.

Totton desperately needed a second-goal to make life more comfortable and it duly arrived on 70 minutes as ex-Wimborne hotshot Gamble opened his club account.

As the ball came in from the right, it ricocheted off a defender and GAMBLE caught it sweetly on the half-volley to net left-footed from 15-yards.

Job done, Gamble was given a well-deserved rest with 15 minutes to go, replaced by Mark Lilley.

Sherborne and Lilley headed over as the Stags went in search of a third.

It was not to be, but the 2-0 win was sufficient to keep up a promising run of seven wins and two draws from their last ten games.

NON-LEAGUE RESULTS

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Bishop Stortford 0 Truro 3
Dartford 1 Concord Rangers 2
Ebbw Vale 0 Hayes & Yeading 0
Gosport Borough 0 Oxford City 0
Havant & Waterlooville 2 Maidstone 1
Hemel Hempstead 1 Bath City 1
Maidenhead 2 Eastbourne Borough 0
St Albans 6 Whitehawk 0
Sutton United 4 Margate 1
Wealdstone 4 Basildon 3
Weston-s-Mare 0 Chelmsford 3

FA TROPHY

Fourth round

Bognor Regis 1 Torquay 0
Halifax Town 0 Gateshead 0
Grimsby Town 2 Woking 0
Nantwich Town 2 Dover Athletic 1

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division

Bedworth 2 Frome 2
Bideford 0 Chesham 0
Biggleswade 1 Weymouth 1
Chippingham 2 Stratford 1
Cirencester 3 Poole Town 0
Dorchester 1 St Neots 0
Dunstable 2 Merthyr Town 1
Histon 3 Kettering 1
Hungerford 2 Cambridge City 0
Leamington 1 Kings Lynn 1
Paulton Rovers 3 Slough 3
Redditch 3 Hitchin 2

Division One South & West

AFC Totton 2 Slimbridge 0
Banbury 2 Winchester City 1
Didcot 0 Cinderford 1
Larkhall 0 North Leigh 2
Shortwood 6 Bashley 0
Swindon Supermarine 3 Bridgwater 1
Taunton 0 Evesham 1
Wantage 0 Mangotsfield 3
Wimborne 2 Bishops Cleeve 2
Yate 0 Marlow 0

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division

AFC Portchester 1 Andover Town 1
Blackfield & Langley 4 Bererton HH 2
Cowes Sports 3 Folland Sports 0
Fareham Town pp Lympstone Town
Fawley AFC 3 Brockenhurst 3
Horndean pp Sholing
Newport IOW 2 Bournemouth Poppies 2
Team Solent 4 Aylesford 1
Verwood 1 Salisburys 2
Whitchurch 2 Moneytiers 1

Division One

AFC Stoneham 4 Hythe & Dibden 1
Andover NS 2 Tadley Calleva 4
Downton 2 Alton 2
New Milton 2 US Portsmouth 3
Pewsey Vale 1 Christchurch 3
Portland 3 Amesbury 1
Ringwood 2 Laverstock & Ford 4
Romsey 4 East Cowes Vics 1
Totton & Elring 2 Fleet Spurs 4

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE

Premier League

Premier Division

Bush Hill 2 Infinity 0
Coldest Common 4 Stockbridge 1
Fleetlands 1 Clanfield 1
Liphook 1 Liss 1
Locks Heath 4 Headley 1
Overton 2 Hedge End 2
Paulsgrove 0 Otterbourne 3
Winchester Castle pp OK Southampton
Division One

AFC Petersfield 2 Broughton 2
Hayling United 1 Michelmersh & Timsbury 1
Lyndhurst 2 Swanage 2
Upham 0 Netley Central 0 (abrd after 38 mins player injured)

Combination East

Headley United 1 Baffins MR 6
Liss 5 AFC Petersfield 0

Combination West

Hamble Club 3 Overton 2
Hedge End Rangers 2 OK Southampton 2
Otterbourne pp Bush Hill

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

Wyvern Challenge Cup

Lympstone Town 1 Totton & Elring 2
John Stimpson Memorial Shield

Bashley 0 Team Solent 4

Premier Division

Petersfield Town pp Wimborne Town
Sholing 0 AFC Portchester 1

Division 1

Alresford Town 2 Verwood 2
Alton Town pp Downton
Laverstock & Ford 2 Tadley 1

Tadley Calleva 1 Romsey 1

DREW SMITH GROUP SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE

Senior League Cup, second round

East Boldre 2 Cadnam United 4

Veterans O-35 League Cup semi-finals

Sporting BTC Vets 1 BTC Soton Vets A 4
Woolston T 8 & 1 Nursling Vets 4

League Supplementary Trophy first round

Lambourne Minor 3 Shizas & Stars 4
M & T Res 3 Sporting Wessex 3
Hedge End Tn Res 4 BTC Soton A 4 aet BTC won on pens.

Premier

BTC Soton 0 Hedge End Tn 1
Comrades 3 Braishfield 0
Durley 1 AFC Gulf Western 3
Nursling 5 Soton University 3

goals

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The FA

SMALL SIDE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Adam Rant**The week's big talking points
with ADAM LEITCH**

Saints can stake claim at the top

Club have chance to prove they can mix it with elite

IF SAINTS can continue even just a decent amount of their recent good form through to the end of this season it will be very significant for the club.

It could, and should, mark a big shift in the way Saints are not only viewed by the outside footballing world, but also in the way they view themselves.

Last season it seemed as if something truly spectacular might happen as Saints bobbed along in the top four for so long.

We all know what happened as the lack of depth in the squad told and they eventually fell away a little before finishing seventh.

That was a remarkable achievement in itself, good enough for European qualification and also the best they had managed in the Premier League era.

The only downside provided by a deeper analysis of the situation was that nagging sense that it was about as good as it could get for Saints.

Another summer which saw a few key players leave the club left a feeling that maybe Saints had reached their pinnacle, and finishing higher was unrealistic without a big injection of cash from somewhere.

Leicester are proving that is not necessarily the case this season, and that it is possible to stay the course if everything goes in your favour.

More importantly for Saints, even with the ups and downs of this season they have manoeuvred themselves into a position to go for an even better finish than they managed last year.

Whether that will be good enough for European football again depends on where they end up and what other teams do in the cup competitions.

However, of more significance will be if they can end the campaign in seventh, or even higher.

If they can do that then suddenly Saints seem a very different club.

They will have proven that last season was not a flash in the pan, not a case of the stars aligning and also not a situation whereby they finished as high as is possible.

They have the chance to show the world that they are progressing year on year, and that this is now where they belong.

It is a chance to cast aside the pre-conceptions surrounding the club



Saints manager Ronald Koeman has been a big hit at St Mary's

and to create a new narrative, one of success and of being a genuine contender for European football year after year.

That is so much harder than just flying high for one season and then

crashing back to reality again.

Saints are becoming an increasingly self-confident club, and this should boost them as well as the way they are viewed from the outside.

It should show them that they be-

long at this level, and that Ralph Krueger's ambitious plans for the future off the pitch as well as on it have plenty of merit.

It is a big few months ahead for the club to make it happen.

Selection headache

THERE ARE some worrying signs with the England cricket team ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup.

After an exciting first half of the tour to South Africa where the Test side won the series, and took a 2-0 lead in the one-day matches, they conspired to lose five games in a row.

It meant they lost the one-day series and were whitewashed in the Twenty20 matches.

There are some obvious selection issues, and surely Hampshire's James Vince has now got to be primed to come into the batting line-up.

The most worrying thing is how brittle England seem to be.

It really requires very little to go wrong and, beyond a few reliable heads, the rest fold in double quick time – that's with the bat and the ball.

A Twenty20 World Cup in India is going to be hard enough for England with turning pitches, and so they cannot afford any mental lapses if they are to have any chance of success.

For all the excitement over, it proves they still have a way to go to be as good as many believe they can be.



James Vince

Very poor behaviour

COIN throwing is a pretty savage way to show your feelings about a player, but it's also something which is all but impossible to stop.

It's hard to imagine what kind of a person goes to a sporting event and feels that throwing a coin at somebody is an acceptable thing to do.

No matter how disillusioned you feel, no matter whether you think players earning millions won't listen to anything else, it is still very poor behaviour.

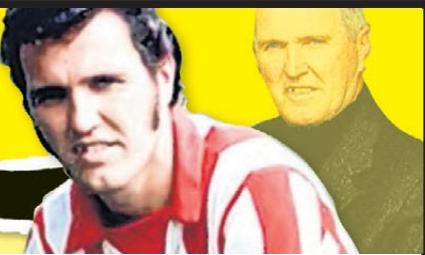
However, for all the security checks around stadia these days, you cannot stop people entering with coins, unless you are going to try and make it a cash free environment, which seems unlikely.

Paine's World

The Saints legend's

EXCLUSIVE

column on all things football



Club management has an inClement climate

You can run, but you can't hide.

Think you have been doing well? Results have been going your way? No one is safe from the sacking, just ask Paul Clement, sacked by Derby after eight months in charge, or many of those that have gone before him.

It is a worrying trend when a fifth place team sack their manager for not playing the right way, despite the team apparently not even targeting promotion, but that's the Championship.

It probably now seems like overkill to still be debating manager sackings, but since the beginning of the 2014/15 season there have been 35 managerial changes covering both sackings and resignations.

To put it in perspective, that's the equivalent of 76% of the teams in the division changing manager (although Leeds, Watford and Charlton are responsible for a large portion of those). In the Premier League over the same period the rate was just 40%.

The 'why' of sackings has been done to death, but what about the impact this is having in the League and the possible solutions to the excessive turnover at Championship clubs? The problem is the effect filters down the division as the Championship clubs constantly look to replace their managers.

Whilst Premier League teams are mainly looking to Europe and out of work ex-Premiership managers, the Championship clubs seem to be looking down, causing instability in other levels of the Football League.

How to convince clubs to retain their managers is another issue entirely, and one that many managers think needs to be addressed. Reading manager Brian McDermott has two suggestions how to stem the rate of sackings; a manager transfer window and minimum time contracts.

Selecting specific times for managers to be relieved is an interesting proposition, but how easy would it be to implement?

When the original transfer window was introduced, there was concern in the lower leagues that teams would not have the financial backing to ensure they had large enough squads to cope with a full season, giving bigger teams a clear advantage.

But in reality that hasn't happened. Football League teams rely on youth players to fill some gaps, and the emergency loan system (where an emergency seems to include 'we really want a new midfielder as ours are useless') means that players can be brought in when needed.

The window has meant that rumours and disruption are limited over the season, which has made a nice change. In fact it seems the only ones struggling from it are the newspaper gossip columns.

That doesn't mean this can, or should, be implemented for managers. The biggest is-



Reading manager Brian McDermott has suggested the introduction of a managerial transfer window and 'minimum time' contracts.

sue is the restricted pool of managers to select from. Having just one month over a season to change your manager would cause complete chaos, with the managerial merry-go-round in overdrive. Almost all clubs would be disrupted as everyone tries to lure the perfect manager. It would also result in a situation where those managers sacked and not selected before the window shut would be unable to get work until the next window opened.

It seems probable that the idea of replacing Arry at the car window on deadline day with a club owner is unlikely, but what about the introduction of minimum contracts? One of the biggest issues facing managers, other than the obvious lack of job security, is the knowledge that you will never be given time to set things right. The increase in the number of clubs sacking two or more managers in one season highlights this.

McDermott suggested that the introduction of minimum term contracts, whereby the manager cannot be removed for the first year of the contract (or the first two transfer windows were they introduced) would alle-

viate this and allow managers to just manage. Unlike the idea of introducing transfer periods, the minimum contract also allows for movement of managers throughout the season. You could still allow contracts to be broken when clubs are willing to pay for a manager who is under contract somewhere else. It is a much more practical solution, and it has at least two clear benefits.

Firstly, it increases the stability at all clubs. Everyone knows where the stand, and players won't be concerned with having to impress multiple managers over a season. Fans would also have to get behind the new manager, as complaining and whining about the choice would be a waste of time for at least a year. It would also give managers a time to settle and implement their own style on the team.

Owners and chairman seem addicted to the new manager effect, whereby changing manager results in an increased number of wins over their first few games in charge. But this no longer seems to be happening, so they have to keep sacking managers to try and get a boost. Teams often go through difficult spells over the season, even Mid-

dlesbrough and Brighton have faced periods without wins, but both have stuck with their manager, and both are still in the promotion hunt.

The second point is that it will really make clubs think hard about who they get in to replace a sacked manager. The idea that you can try something for a few months and if it doesn't work, get someone new would be gone. Teams would have to manage their expectations better and hire accordingly. For example, no one was expecting

Rotherham to be battling in the top half this season, yet they have already sacked two managers for failing to get them out of a relegation battle. Redfearn may have only won five of his 21 games in charge, but that is about the same as their record last season.

The managers association is obviously concerned at the situation in the Championship, but whether anything will change over the next few years remains to be seen.

For the time being fans may just need to get used to the managerial revolving door and having no idea who the manager is this week.

SAINTS SPOTLIGHT



Pellegrini's FA Cup selection unjustified



WITH the FA Cup weekend over, Saints fans can breathe a sigh of relief as Tottenham crashed out.

It may just have been me but the thought of Spurs winning anything fills me with dread.

Actually 'dread' probably isn't the word, more disgust.

Disgust that a club that so blatantly pilfers from other clubs can strut around as if their success is all down to them and their infrastructure.

Sixty's success is really down to their manager, their centre back and the £90 million they got from the sale of Gareth Bale... A player pretty much created by Southampton, from child to first team player.

You ask any Spurs fan and they're adamant Spurs should take the credit for Bale, stating they made him the player he was when he signed for Madrid.

Really?

But enough of Tottenham. Like most Saints fans I'll be praying for an upturn in Manchester City, Arsenal and Chelsea's (after this weekend of course) fortunes to ensure Tottenham end up with what we all know is the best they can hope for... Europa League football.

The FA Cup's only real talking point was Manchester City's "shock" exit from the tournament as they, yet again, fielded a sub strength team and were thrashed by Chelsea.

In the world of football it's not exactly headline news. Clubs do it all the time, but when you realise a quarter final appearance was at stake were Pellegrini's action justified or were they yet another nail in the coffin of England's greatest sporting tournament?

I'd vote for the latter.

Pellegrini may have staved off the critics by beating Dynamo Kiev in the Champions League a few days later, but let's not delude ourselves by suggesting that multi millionaire, professional footballers cannot perform at their best twice a week.

It's ridiculous.

If you earn more in a week than a doctor earns in a year, is it asking that much for you to have the ability to play two big games in week?

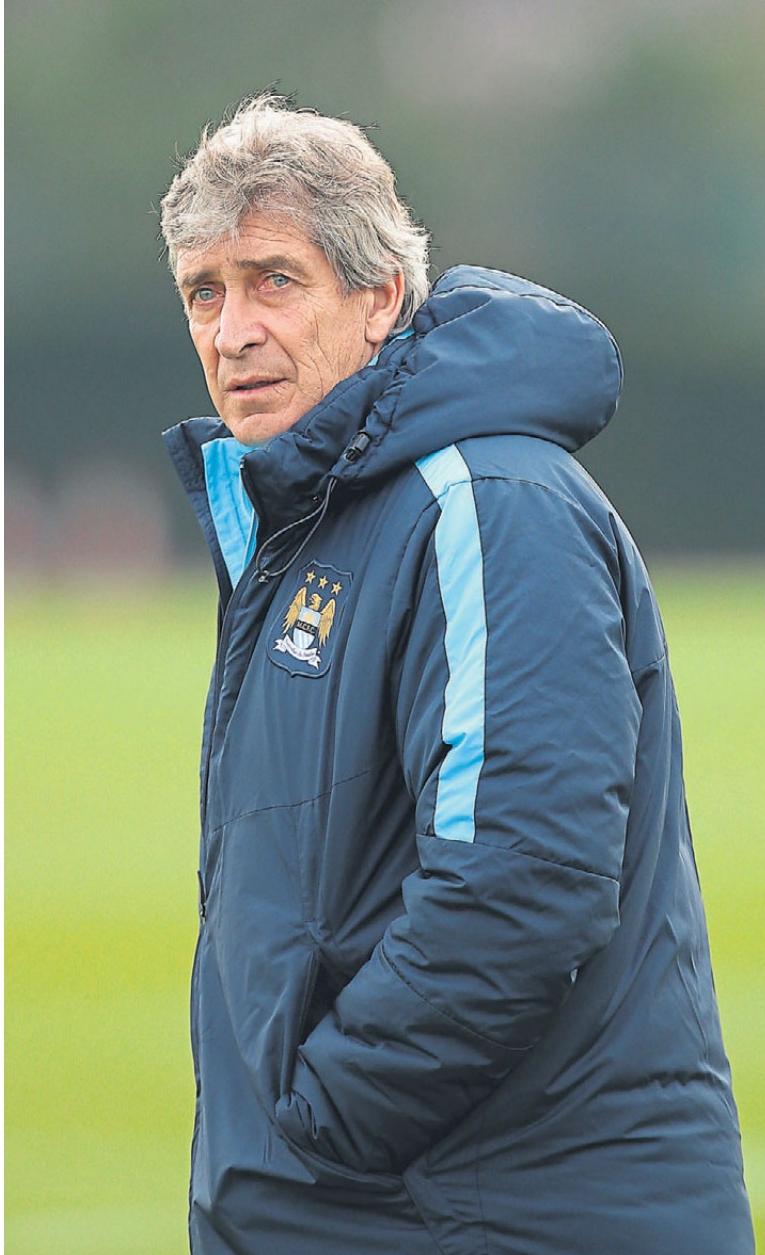
That aside, who ever thinks about the fans?

Last Sunday, thousands of City fans made the long journey from Manchester to London (or perhaps not - lol) only to see their team fail abysmally.

Who thinks about them?

Much is made of the entertainment factor of football.

It's pretty safe to say football is't really so much of a sport more of a entertainment



Manchester City boss Manuel Pellegrini preparing for tomorrow's Capital One Cup final (PA)

business with millionaires kicking a ball around.

It's that entertainment factor that is used to justify the huge amounts of money football fans are forced to pay year in year out. Every year more and money comes into

the game and yet ticket prices continually increase.

At no stage does any of that Sky money filter down to us, the fans.

Instead, we see ever increasing wages, ever increasing contracts and not one penny

lopped off the price of your season ticket.

With that in mind, how insulting is it that the travelling City fans paid good money to see a second string squad compete for a place in the quarter finals of the FA Cup?

If a theatre goer had paid top dollar to see a West End show and the main cast was completely replaced by their understudies, what do you think would happen?

Mass exodus from all but the hardiest theatre obsessives would be the answer.

The grounds for such an exodus?

Most likely that they had paid their money to see celebrity/performer X and getting a no doubt able understudy gives way to accusations of false advertising.

What makes the theatre and the football different?

Football is a sport? Don't make me laugh.

Sport indicates something remotely resembling a level playing field.

When clubs compete against teams whose bench is worth more than their entire first team, what chance do they stand?

How is that a sport??

The reason people desperately want Leicester to win the title is because their achievement would be beyond the realms of what most of us believe to be possible.

For heart, soul, determination and team spirit to be enough to overcome greed and avarice.

The harsh truth is that most football clubs don't appear to care about the fans.

If they did they wouldn't field a team of reserves for what should have been an important cup game.

It's not the League Cup, it's not the third round, it's the bloody FA Cup for Christ's sake!

Clubs are all too quick to cash in on a cup success, bask in its glory but when it comes down to it, the FA Cup is treated with complete and utter disrespect.

Either football is a sport or it's a business. If it's a sport, make the playing field more level.

Give clubs like Southampton some sort of support, help them when the likes of Liverpool and Tottenham are blatantly tapping players up via the media.

Give them some sense that someone, somewhere, will protect them from these corporate raiders.

Make football fair.

If not, if it's business, then fine.

Every time your club fields a team they know won't stand a chance in a cup game, refund the people who were stupid enough to believe you cared.

Every single Manchester City fan that made that journey on Sunday should ask for a refund.

They won't, they'll do what every football fan does ... they'll suck it up and carry on.

It's not fair.

Football seems to want everything its own way.

It wants the increased income without the customer service that should come with the increased prices.

One day they'll realise the error of their ways, but I'm not holding my breath.



Ben Strevens protests his innocence after being sent off against Forest Green last weekend.

Ben banned for 7 games for spitting

EASTLEIGH will have to kick-start their Vanarama National League play-off push with one of their most experienced campaigners banned to the sidelines.

Midfielder Ben Strevens must sit out a seven-match ban – starting with Tuesday's visit of title challengers Cheltenham Town to the Silverlake Stadium (March 1, 7.45pm).

The streetwise 35-year-old, one of the 'old' heads in the Spittfires side, was shown a straight red for spitting in the direction of Forest Green Rovers' two-goal match-winner Jon Parkin during stoppage time at The New Lawn last Saturday.

The offence carries an automatic six-match suspension and an extra game has been added because it is Strevens' second red card of the season.

The former Dagenham & Redbridge, Barnet and Wycombe Wanderers man previously got his marching

orders for a bust-up in the half-time tunnel during the 2-1 home defeat by Gateshead in mid-September.

Strevens, who has captained the side on occasion this season, is also walking a disciplinary tightrope where bookings are concerned. He has seen yellow nine times this term and one more would trigger an additional two-match ban.

His seven-match punishment begins on Tuesday and he is not due back until the Easter Monday game at Torquay United.

It means he also misses home games against Woking, Chester, Bromley and Welling and trips to Braintree and FC Halifax.

Strevens maintains he did not spit directly at the player, but nevertheless Eastleigh have opted not to appeal.

Chairman Stewart Donald confirmed: "The club did not appeal as we had zero chance of success."

"We have dealt with the matter internally and taken what we feel is appropriate action, bearing in mind the

circumstances."

Strevens' lengthy ban is another blow to Chris Todd's Spittfires as they bid to turn round a poor run of results that has seen them bank just four of the last available 24 points.

Eastleigh – without a fixture this afternoon – were still tenth in the VNL table at the start of today. But Tuesday brought wins for Forest Green, Grimsby, Wrexham and Braintree, who are all above them, while a rare Cheltenham off-night saw them held 0-0 by Gateshead.

For Gary Johnson's Robins, that goalless stalemate ended a run of six consecutive wins, allowing Forest Green to narrow the gap on them to two points.

Tickets for Tuesday's big game at the Silverlake can be purchased from the turnstiles on the day of the match or pre-ordered by calling the Spittfire ticket office on 023 8061 3361. There is a discount for buying tickets in advance. Admission prices: Adults – £12 (in advance), £15 (on the day). Senior Citizens – £8 (in advance), £10 (on the day). Students (£8 in advance), £10 (on the day). Under 16s – £4 (in advance), £4 (on the day). Under 7s – Free.



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Eastleigh aiming to keep former midfielder Pell quiet

ONE year ago this week Harry Pell was telling the Daily Echo how thrilled he was to be playing regular football again.

The midfielder was three matches into his Eastleigh career, following a frustrating period on the fringes of the side at AFC Wimbledon, writes PAUL McNAMARA.

Alas, Pell's promising start to life at the Silverlake Stadium ultimately petered out, to the extent that he was freed by the Spittires last summer.

Anybody who saw the dynamic 24-year-old on his better days in Eastleigh blue, however, would have appreciated that this is a talented footballer.

Certainly Gary Johnson, the man charged with returning Cheltenham Town to the Football League at the first time of asking, thought Pell a gamble worth taking.

Johnson, with his wealth of experience operating in the muck and bullets environment of England's lower leagues, would have recognised in Pell an individual in need of a little guidance and prompting.

Primarily, however, the Cheltenham boss, who embarked on a substantial close-season recruitment drive, was acquiring a player capable of trampling over his National League contemporaries.

Johnson, after all, in common with all of his managerial counterparts, is operating with his neck on the block. As such, the 60-year-old flushed out a host of the men who were part of the Robins' relegation campaign last time round.

In came Pell – and 12 others. And



Harry Pell, left, in action for Eastleigh at Lincoln last season.

Non league FOOTBALL



Jenkins hopes to go one better and reach Wembley

Salisbury's DoF wants to make up for 2003 defeat

SALISBURY'S director of football Mick Jenkins is hoping fate will be kinder to him as Wembley beckons for the second time in his managerial career.

Thirteen years ago, Jenkins was co-manager of Havant & Waterlooville when they reached the semi-finals of the FA Trophy against Tamworth, writes Wendy Gee.

They lost the first leg 1-0 away and, having levelled the aggregate score through James Taylor at Westleigh Park, were agonisingly beaten in extra-time.

The sending-off of former Nottingham Forest and Swindon midfielder Bobby Howe seven minutes into the extra period proved the turning point as Scott Rickards broke Hawks' hearts with a 11th-minute decider.

Unlike the rest of Havant's management team that year, Jenkins has yet to atone for that Wembley near miss with another club.

He said: "The two lads I was working with, Liam Daish (co-manager) and Mick Catlin (assistant), have both been to Wembley since then – Liam with Ebbsfleet United and Mick with Gosport Borough. Let's hope history will be kind to me this time!"

If Salisbury are to complete their 'March to the Arch' they will have to get the better of red-hot Vase favourites Hereford who, like themselves, are a reformed club risen from the ashes of their financially-ruined predecessors.

The heavyweight bout would have made a wonderful final, but Jenkins can't wait to lock horns with The Bulls over a two-legged semi.

The first leg is at Hereford's Edgar Street on Saturday, March 12 and the return takes place a week later (March 19) at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium.

"It's going two cracking occasions and, I would imagine, two sell-out crowds," said Jenkins. "There's probably going to be 5,500 at Hereford and ours will be around 3,500. I shouldn't think the Vase has ever seen anything like that before."

"We've already had 1,500 in for our league game against Bemerton and there were nearly 1,800 here when we played Ashford United on Saturday, so that shows the level of support we're getting."

"Had Salisbury played Hereford at Wembley, I'd imagine we'd have got in the region of the 36,000 that watched Totton play Truro (when the new Wembley opened in 2007)."

"But as Steve (Claridge, manager) says, the good thing about the semi-



Steve Claridge and Mick Jenkins look on from the Salisbury technical area

final is that it's over two legs.

"In a one-off game a bit of luck can creep in, but over two legs the best team will probably win – and hopefully that will be Salisbury."

When Jenkins accepted Claridge's invitation to help build the new Salisbury last summer, he could only have dreamed they would come this far so soon.

"Last July we didn't have a team and now here we are top of the Wessex League, in the Vase semi-finals, the quarter-finals of the League Cup and the final of the Wiltshire Senior Cup."

"Everyone's made cheap shots

about what we've got and haven't got, but we haven't invested outside the area to get players in."

"Nearly all these lads were from the Wessex Premier or Wessex One. One or two have played Southern League football, but not many. We've worked hard with them, got them organised and we're scoring goals for fun and keeping clean sheets galore."

"We haven't won anything yet, we've no illusions about that, but we've come an awful long way in a short space of time."

With the likes of ex-Saint Jamie White having bolstered the ranks in recent weeks, Jenkins doesn't

anticipate Salisbury's Vase success detracting from their Wessex promotion push.

"We've got a depth of squad now to cope with a hell of a lot of fixtures," he pointed out. "We've got a lot of league games to focus on and we'll respect each and every side we play. We're there to be shot at, but we've got the squad we want and trust. Even if we do rotate, we don't feel we've got any weaknesses. The people of Salisbury have backed us and everywhere we go we take really good support. Clubs in this league will probably not see the likes of that again for a while."

It's no Lye, Whites are a class above

PLAYER/MANAGER Danny Lye admitted Ashford United were outclassed in their 3-0 quarter-final defeat to the bookies' second favourites Salisbury.

Lye started himself in midfield for the first 45 minutes in which Whites twice found the net through Kane O'Keefe and Taurean Roberts.

He sacrificed himself at the interval, but waved goodbye to the tie when O'Keefe slotted home Salisbury's third a minute after the restart.

"We lost to a better team on the day – they are a good side," Lye acknowledged.

"The boys did their best."

"I said to them at the start, all I'm asking is for you to go with the game plan and we'll see what happens after 90 minutes."

But Lye will reflect on two key moments in the game when Ashford were 1-0 down.

Experienced former Lewes and Havant & Waterlooville striker Paul Booth was gifted the chance to level with a header which he guided wide from Ryan Palmer's excellent delivery.

Then John Pilbeam went through on goal but also missed the target.

"Booth you'd bet your house on him scoring and everyone in non-League knows that he takes his chances and he's had a couple," Lye said.

"John Pilbeam had his opportunities as well. On another day you go into half-time 2-1 up, but unfortunately it wasn't meant to be."

"Salisbury have got a few better players than us, but we are a team in the making and we'll come back stronger from it."

● **Salisbury** can take a maximum of 725 supporters to the first leg of their FA Vase semi-final at Hereford on Saturday, March 12.

Tickets, including 350 on the terraces, will cost £8 adults, £7 concessions and £1 under-16s.

The other tie will be Morpeth or Bristol Manor Farm v Kidlington or Bowers & Pitsea.



Salisbury's Tom Whelan

Non league FOOTBALL



Salisbury's Jamie White



Ex-Saint Jamie is getting back to his best

JAMIE White is beginning to make his mark at Salisbury.

Although the ex-Saint still has some way to go before getting back to his best, there are signs his sharpness is gradually returning.

The 26-year-old had what Whites boss Steve Claridge described as "two years in the wilderness" after leaving the old Salisbury City FC for Bristol Rovers in the summer of 2014.

But after spells with Sutton United and Gosport Borough, he is looking to revive

his career at Old Sarum.

White played no part in the FA Vase quarter-final win, but is being blooded in slowly in other competitions.

He netted five goals in his first two starts against lower league opposition – a hat-trick against Corsham in the Wiltshire Senior Cup and a brace against Amesbury in the Wessex League Cup.

And he featured prominently as Salisbury preserved their eight-point lead at the Sydenham Wessex League summit with a solid 2-0 win against Bourne-

mouth Poppies on Tuesday night.

White played his part in the eighth-minute opener, releasing Claudio Herbert to score Salisbury's 150th goal of the season in all competitions.

Director of football Mick Jenkins said: "By Jamie's own admission he's probably not at his ideal fighting weight, but I'm sure Steve (Claridge) will get on top of that and Jamie will respond. In Sam Wilson, Ashley Jarvis, Jamie and Robbie Matthews we have four attacking options all offering something different."

Claridge lauds his FA Vase heroes as semi-final beckons

Salisbury boss is delighted with quarter-final win

JUBILANT boss Steve Claridge lauded Salisbury as "absolutely sensational" after last week's 3-0 FA Vase quarter-final victory over Ashford United.

Kane O'Keefe nabbed a brace sandwiched around Taurean Roberts' drive to ensure Whites put the tie to bed inside 46 minutes, writes Joel Holt.

Claridge, who had been to Homeland the previous Saturday with director of football Mick Jenkins to watch Ashford against Beckenham Town, said: "It was a good performance on a heavy pitch again."

"To be fair, they came here and were brave. They went two up front and had a right go at us and had two really good gilt-edged chances.

"Aside from those, they didn't have anything else in the game."

"We were totally dominant, but there will probably be one or two players in their dressing room who will be kicking themselves for not taking the chances.

"As dominant as we were, it could have been a different game if they'd scored them. I think we got what we deserved, which was a comfortable win."

"The quality of our play, at times, was absolutely sensational."

With the victory came a third clean sheet in a row in the competition for young keeper Charlie Searle.

The 20-year-old, signed on dual registration from National League South side Havant & Waterlooville, had a solid game on all three occasions.

Claridge, who turns 50 in April, added: "We've had a little bit of luck that we needed, obviously at Nuneaton, (the missed penalty) and today they've missed a couple of chances."

"In all honesty, have we deserved to win those games of football? Yes, we have."



Taurean Roberts celebrates Salisbury's second goal (Picture by Tom Gregory)

"We've deserved that luck in the manner in which we've performed and played. We're always on the front foot, positive and after sides."

Claridge's charges battled through taxing conditions against the Kent outfit, roared on by a bumper crowd of 1,791.

That attendance was the largest since Premier League guns AFC Bournemouth visited last summer, not long after the reformed club rose from the ashes.

"It's big," said Claridge. "Obviously, we were expecting that with the amount of interest going around."

"I said to the players before, if you are nervous and excited about this one, think what it'll be like for the next one and the one after that."

"They (Ashford) helped to make what, for 70 minutes, was a fantastic game of football."

"We got what we deserved."

Bulls Hale Salisbury

HEREFORD FC chairman Jon Hale has labelled his club's FA Vase semi-final draw as "mouth-watering".

The Bulls will square-off against fellow phoenix club Salisbury over two legs next month.

The first match will be at Edgar Street on Saturday, March 12, before the return leg will be the following week.

Salisbury are top of the Sydenham Wessex League and are managed by former Portsmouth boss Steve Claridge.

"It's a fantastic draw and the media spotlight will no doubt be on it going by where both clubs have come from," said Hale.

"A lot of people probably wanted the game as the final because of what has happened to both clubs over the past 12 months, but it's a fantastic semi-final draw."

"I'm looking forward to it and am very excited because it is sure to be a great atmosphere, like it was on Saturday."

Thrown out

Like Hereford, Salisbury were thrown out of the Conference during the summer of 2014 due to mounting debts.

Salisbury's Raymond McEnhill stadium has a capacity of 5,000 and Hale said the two clubs will now be in discussions regarding ticket allocations.

"It's a big help that they play at a Conference-level ground," said Hale.

Hereford manager Pete Beadle said of the draw: "I'm not disappointed or unhappy because you're going to get a tough game in the semi-final of any competition."

"They are doing a bit better than us in that they are clear in their league, whereas we could be second if teams win their games in hand, but it will be two fantastic games."

"Steve has done a great job and is a great character who has a lot of experience in the game."

"But whatever happens in the games, it will be a massive celebration for both clubs because of where they have come from."



Jon Hale

Non league FOOTBALL



Richie Coxall

Fireworks as four players sent off in first-half clash

THERE were first-half fireworks at Alresford last Saturday when four players were dismissed in one fell swoop in the Sydenhams Premier basement battle against Fawley AFC.

A late John Howard winner clinched Alresford a 3-2 victory, but the game's big talking point came on 35 minutes when, with the Magpies 1-0 up, both sides were reduced to nine men.

Rian Jima-Otero's attempt to block Sam Long's clearance was late and clearly a foul. The Fawley man reacted

and players from both sides piled in.

Eventually Jima-Otero and his Magpies teammate Tom Donaldson were sent for an early bath along with Fawley defenders Chris and Aaron Lucas.

Alresford boss Martin Beck, who had seen Jima-Otero give his side an eighth-minute lead, said: "Rian won the ball, but they reacted and it was all handbags."

"Everyone was pushing each other, but it was nothing really."

Fawley boss Richie Coxall said: "Chris went in to try and pull people apart and

someone grabbed him. That triggered Aaron to jump in and defend his brother and heads got a bit close."

"Aaron was sent off first for an alleged head butt. Chris then followed, supposedly for a double-handed push to the face, but it was mistaken identity. The wrong bloke's been sent off."

After Howard had doubled Alresford's lead shortly before half-time, Fawley hit back to level through Charlie Willett and Dan Fry (penalty).

But Howard struck his second.



Simon Browne

Browne furious

FURIOUS Simon Browne admitted he had been close to boiling point after Wimborne Town had been beaten by fellow Southern South & West strugglers Bridgwater last Saturday.

The Magpies created plenty of chances at Fairfax Park and Sam Bayston and Scott Arnold both hit the woodwork, while James Stokoe had a goal chalked off and Mark Ford missed several presentable openings.

Shaun Anthony's precise finish 11 minutes from time put Bridgwater in front and the dismissal of Josh Wadham late on for a lunge on Ant Waters did not derail the hosts.

"I'd have been annoyed if we had come off 0-0 so to lose was even more galling. I was like a ticking timebomb after the game," fumed Browne.

"Their manager said to me that we had been robbed. I don't think he did it to wind me up, but it probably made me more annoyed!"

"We should have won the game. We had eight or nine good chances to their two, but they hit us with a sucker punch and we ended up losing to a side that were no great shakes."

Head on block

● **CARL McCLEMENTS** has put his head on the block and predicted that Portland United will win the Sydenhams Wessex One title.

The ex-Weymouth frontman linked up with Portland at the start of the season and has been part of a side that, ahead of today, had won 16 out of 18 league games so far this term.

McClements, with 12 goals to his name, enthused: "We are absolutely flying."

"I think we lost our second game of the season [at Romsey Town] and have been unbeaten since then."

"After six or seven games in, we felt so confident and felt we could win every game - and we pretty much have."

"The whole defence is so solid, we rarely concede goals."

"There are no weak links. "I think we are going to win the league."

Alresford Town are Beck on course thanks to Darts

Sports Pink helps to unite Town's management duo

MANAGER Martin Beck has credited the arrival of Andy Darnton with turning Alresford Town's problematic season around.

After reading in *The Pink* just prior to Christmas that experienced coach/manager Darnton was looking for a route back into the game, Beck decided to give his old Bashley teammate a call, *writes Wendy Gee*.

It proved an inspired decision with Darnton lifting not only the mood of the club but also the weight of the world off Beck's troubled shoulders.

Following the departure of Jamie Griggs and Mark Bentley, Beck had been left to do practically everything single-handedly with just Sean Wren to help out.

"I got left in the lurch, washing the kit and sorting everything out by myself," he said. I spoke to Darts and he agreed to come over and help out for the rest of the season.

"Having him here has been great. The training's so much better and we've signed a few more players since he came in, like Iain Calder, Gary Fulker, Ollie Yates and Aaron Blaxall."

"Aaron's come down from Fleet and he's been our best player. Me and Craig Davis (Fleet Town manager) went to school together and he said that if he could help me out in any way, he would. He said he wouldn't do it for just anyone!"

"It's been a struggle but, with Darts coming in, it's made a massive difference. He's a good motivator, he's got coaching and scouting badges, and all the players respect him."

"The turnaround since Christmas has been brilliant. I wish we'd had this group of lads – and Darts – from the start of the season."

Although Alresford remain second-to-bottom of the Sydenhams Premier standings, back-to-back wins this week suggest survival is achievable.



Andy Darnton (main picture) and Martin Beck (inset)

Having seen off Fawley AFC 3-2 in one basement battle last Saturday, they repeated the trick against Fareham Town in midweek as goals from Rian Jima-Otero and Sam Carter (penalty) tied up a 2-1 victory.

It's not been easy for the Magpies with defender Jamie Bentley still working his way back to full fitness after three months out with a leg

fracture and midfielder Harry Draycott sidelined until next season with cruciate knee ligament damage.

Draycott's injury is an all too familiar one to Beck, who is due a cruciate operation next month.

"Harry's a big loss," he said. "I've got a bit stressed with all that's gone on this season, but we've got some great lads here."

Non league FOOTBALL



Will Tickle, left.



Lymington claim their first victory of the year

LYMINGTON Town's 2-1 win at Folland last Saturday was long overdue.

It was the first time they had savoured league or cup victory since beating Hamworthy 2-0 back on December 12.

Prior to that Lymo had been flying, but there are various reasons why they have stumbled into 2016.

Manager John Pyatt has not been around as much due to pressing work commitments, the weather has played havoc with fixtures and the camp has been riddled with injuries and suspensions.

Pyatt admitted: "It's been hard lately. We've had a lot of players

out for different reasons and it's all been a bit stop-start."

"I've had a lot on at work and have left Warren and Stuart Kennedy to take the team, so that's been a bit unsettling for the lads. But I've taken on an operations manager at work now which should give me more time to concentrate on my hobby again."

The absence of attacking bright sparks Will Tickle and Jack Adam has taken its toll.

Adam remains sidelined with knee damage while ex-Team Solent and Brockenhurst wide-man Tickle has been ruled out by injury and suspension.

"Jack's waiting on a scan result,

but we're looking at him more for next season," said the boss. "Will's had an ankle problem going back to last year. We'd just got him right again and then he got himself sent off and got a three-match ban.

"Ben Sullivan's had a four-match suspension, so we've been up against it.

"But we're still not in a bad position and we're not just going to lie down and give in."

Lymington were crushed 5-1 at home by third-placed AFC Portchester on Tuesday. Ex-Winchester City forward Geoff Dunn scored twice backed by Jason Parish, Steve Ramsey and sub Ashley Howes.

Lee-sy does it for Killick

BOSS Tom Killick has backed Eastleigh loan recruit Tony Lee to add a "different dimension" to his attacking options at Poole Town.

The 19-year-old Shirley-based striker, who was handed his first professional contract in November having emerged from the Spittires youth ranks, has signed a month-long loan at Tatton, writes *Wendy Gee*.

Lee, scorer of six goals in three games for AFC Totton earlier this season, has also lined up for Dorchester and Gosport during his breakthrough campaign.

His move to Tatton comes on the back of Richard Gillespie's latest injury setback and the loss of Toby Holmes to Dorchester.

But despite the upheaval, Killick insists he is content with his newly-bolstered frontline, which also includes ex-Eastleigh man Ashan Holgate.

On Lee's arrival, Killick said: "He had a loan spell at Dorchester which didn't go particularly well, but he went to Totton and did very well."

"Eastleigh saw enough from that loan to give him a contract before sending him to Gosport, but he found his opportunities limited there."

Different dimension

"He is very enthusiastic and highly thought of at Eastleigh. With Richard Gillespie's injury and losing Toby Holmes, we are short of attacking options.

"Ashan Holgate is a certain type of player, he is very strong and powerful, while Tony is young, quick and mobile, so I'm confident he can bring a very different dimension to our play."

"They are two good additions in very different ways and we need that kind of variety to keep things fresh."

Lee impressed on his first outing for Poole on Tuesday, having a hand in the winning goal as the Southern Premier leaders secured three vital points with a 1-0 win over in-form Hitchin.

With Steve Devlin going off injured, Lee delivered a top quality free-kick which ex-AFC Totton forward Luke Roberts flicked on with his head into the top corner.

Poole boss Tom Killick said the "psychological effect" was probably the biggest thing to take from the victory after dropping points in recent games.

"I am not pretending we played particularly well and you could probably argue Hitchin were the better side," he said.

"But we showed a resilience and determination which have always been hallmarks of our play."

"We hadn't quite had that in recent weeks. We have had a bit of a soft centre in terms of our defending, but we showed a lot of heart and that was what got us the win."



Sent off: Brad Strickland (red). Inset: Lymington boss John Pyatt.

Park.

Pyatt can't help but conclude that referees are not taking the level of football into account when they so readily reach for their cards.

"We're not a pro league, this is non-League football and we're getting punished severely for snap decisions by referees. There's no thought process whatsoever," he said.

These players aren't pros, a few are getting expenses, but the majority are not getting paid.

"Clubs that are able to reward

players financially can expect a bit more discipline, but it's difficult at this level where you've got no real hold on players.

"There are lads toing and froing between clubs because they're getting cheased off not playing regu-

larly. But they turn up every week and a lot of the time they're playing on poor pitches in bad conditions.

"Of course they'll get frustrated and react a bit if someone kicks them from behind, but it's not malicious."

"It just bewilders me to see someone as placid as Brad getting sent off for violent conduct."



Tony Lee in action for Dorchester.

Non league FOOTBALL



Manager Traynor claims second goal was 'dubious'

HAMWORTHY United boss Shane Traynor felt the goal that gave Blackfield & Langley a 2-1 Sydenhams Premier win at the County Ground on Tuesday was "a little bit dubious".

The teams were level when Watersiders' winger Ekow Elliott, left, registered his second goal of the game direct from a corner.

Substitute Nick Swann claimed he had chested clear off the line but his pro-

tests were not headed.

Traynor said: "Their second goal was a little bit dubious because Nick said the ball had not crossed the line."

"It was a very good corner from Ekow, but even one of their players said it hadn't gone over."

"Unfortunately, the linesman judged the ball had crossed the line and that was the decision we had to go by."

Blackfield went in front early on when

Carl Preston's cross was not properly cleared and Elliott tucked into the net.

Hamworthy levelled courtesy of Jack Satterley's effort from the edge of the box following good work from Matt Kemble and Kane Daysh, but Elliott's second-half corner settled matters.

Traynor added: "I think we deserved something out of the game. We created chances but just needed to be a bit more clinical."

Wessex title is Salisbury's to throw away now - Chris

Blackfield's slim chance vanishes at Andover ...

CHRIS FARRELL IS CONVINCED THE SYDENHAMS PREMIER DIVISION TITLE IS NOW SALISBURY'S TO LOSE.

Until last weekend the Blackfield & Langley co-assistant manager would have given the Watersiders an outside chance of reeling in Steve Claridge's leaders.

But that hope was frittered away last Saturday when Blackfield were beaten 3-2 at Andover Town, *writes WENDY GEE*.

"I have to be honest, it's gone now," he said. "It was always going to be difficult to turn it (Salisbury's lead) around and it's almost impossible now."

"I think that's it - at least as far as Blackfield are concerned."

"I feel sorry for Horndean because their home games keep getting postponed and, for some reason, Portchester keep dropping stupid points at home."

"Portchester still have to play Salisbury twice, so you never know, but it's going to be hard now for anyone to stop Salisbury winning the league."

Regroup

Blackfield's display at Andover was poor for a team of their calibre – and it's not the first time this season they have underperformed.

"We didn't lose the league last Saturday, it's happened over previous weeks - losing to Team Solent, Newport and Verwood," rued Farrell.

"We're playing for second now."

"But it's no good feeling sorry for ourselves. We have to regroup, reshape and refocus. The season's not finished yet."

If Salisbury do go on to lift the title, as expected, there will be no complaints from Farrell who admires the way the new club has risen from the ashes of the old Conference outfit Salisbury City.

"Fair play to them," he said. "They couldn't have done more than they have. They were always going to be wide open to criticism with people



Salisbury manager Steve Claridge.

having cheap shots at them because of what they were."

"But they deserve much credit for the results they're getting and it's not down to their resources either."

"I was talking to (Salisbury's ex-Blackfield winger) Danny Young who told me they'd only lost one game in 33."

"To put a run together like that speaks for itself."

Whether the FA Vase will take pride of place in Salisbury's trophy cabinet come the end of the season is tougher to call.

Beating hot favourites Hereford over two legs in the semi-final will take some doing for Claridge's men.

Farrell finds it hard to predict a winner but reckons one thing that may go in Salisbury's favour is their eight-point comfort cushion at the top of the Wessex Premier.

Farrell said: "Whereas the Wessex title is Salisbury's to throw away, Alvechurch are only five points behind Hereford with three games in hand. So Hereford can't take chances with players if they want to win the Midland Premier."

"It's a tough semi-final for Salisbury but, bizarrely, it's probably what Steve (Claridge, manager) would have wanted. It's the first game this season they'll go into as underdogs."

"It's a two-legged affair with the first leg away and the decision for Salisbury will be whether to keep it tight or have a go. I would expect Steve to go to Hereford and have a go."

"This is the Step 5 non-League battle of the season and would probably have been the final everyone wanted."

Hammers have hope

HAMWORTHY UNITED BOSS SHANE TRAYNOR HAS LAUNDED THE IMPACT OF RETURNING CHAIRMAN STEVE HARVEY AS THOUGHTS BEGIN TO TURN TO NEXT SEASON.

Mid-table Hammers have endured a testing Sydenhams Premier campaign, on and off the pitch, but their search for a permanent leader for their committee now seems to be at an end.

"It has been tough," admitted Traynor.

"A lot has changed, but everyone is doing their best to make sure it is for the better."

"Steve is back and his drive and ambition is fantastic. Now it is all about putting in place the foundations for next season."

"He is hands on and gets involved without interfering."

"From the off, he has been on the ball and very positive. He can see my philosophy of bringing through young players and sees the potential in that."

"He has given me his backing and is sorting out the commercial side. He deserves a lot of credit for his work inside a few short weeks."



Shane Traynor

Lions into the last four

ANDOVER LIONS KEPT THEIR HUNT FOR TROPHIES ON NUMEROUS FRONTS GOING ON TUESDAY NIGHT.

The Lions are almost certain to win the Hampshire Premier League second tier title after 13 wins from their opening 14 matches.

They are preparing for face Broughton in the final of the North Hants Intermediate Cup next weekend.

And in midweek they reached the semi-final of the Andover Open Cup with a 2-1 home victory over Ludgershall.

Ludgershall took the lead four minutes into the second half through Nathan Strong, only for Danny Urry to quickly level.

Jazz Beavis grabbed the winner from the penalty spot eight minutes from time.

Non league FOOTBALL



Dominic Cope

Dominic couldn't cope with lack of City games

WINCHESTER City are a man down as they round the bend into the home straight of the Southern One South & West promotion race.

Defender Dominic Cope has decided to retire having grown frustrated by lack of game time.

Cope was one of several players to join City from Alresford Town at the beginning of last season and played his part in getting them promoted from the Sydenhams Wessex League.

He left to join fellow promoted club and Sydenhams champions Petersfield Town in the summer, but recently returned to the Winchester ranks to boost the squad for the promotion run-in.

Limited

But with City going well, his appearances have been limited and he has opted to hang up his boots.

Director of football Dave Malone confirmed: "Copey has decided to



retire.

"When he came to us from Petersfield I think he thought he would be playing regularly. But Danny King has been playing well and Copey's not been getting in."

"He lives in Haslemere, which is a bit of a trek, so I can understand his frustration."

"It's a shame – particularly at this time of year when we haven't got the biggest of squads."

Goodship's back on right course after injury agony

'It was tough ... I wouldn't wish it on anyone'

FORMER Blackfield & Langley loanee Brandon Goodship has put an 18-month injury nightmare behind him.

The 21-year-old AFC Bournemouth striker made his Football League debut for Yeovil against Portsmouth on Saturday, coming off the bench during the 1-1 League Two draw.

Goodship, who contributed seven goals from 15 appearances to Blackfield's 2012/13 Sydenhams Premier title-winning campaign, has been with Cherries since the age of 12.

He joined Yeovil on loan on Friday and a host of family and friends - including Cherries team-mate Bailey Cargill - were among the crowd at Huish Park to support him on an emotional day.

Complications

Poole-based Goodship sustained a serious knee injury when he caught his heel in a divot during a pre-season friendly for Cherries under-21s in 2014. His problems were compounded when complications set in following an operation.

He told the (*Bournemouth*) Daily Echo: "It was the hardest point in my life so far. There were a lot of days when I would go in and be downhearted about everything.

"It was tough to deal with some days and I wouldn't wish it on anyone. I was able to get through it with the support of my family and friends.

"I was told I would make a full recovery but I always questioned whether I would come back from it. And, if I did, I always wondered whether it would hinder my chances of going further in the game.

"Fortunately, I was lucky enough to make a full recovery and I feel just as good as I did before it happened.

"I was buzzing when I found out I would be going on loan. I was sit-



Brandon Goodship in action for Cherries.

ting on the bench and it started to sink in that I was living the dream.

"When the manager told me to get ready, I put on my shirt and realised I was going to make my professional debut. I was nervous but had to concentrate on the job in hand.

"I was on the pitch for about 30

minutes but it seemed to be over in a flash. It was a big game for both teams and emotions were running high.

"In the dark days, it had crossed my mind that it might never happen. But once I had come back from the injury and done all the rehab, I

knew all the hard work was going to pay off.

"It was a major milestone for me and a very proud moment for my family. But I know it is just a start.

"I can't wait to kick on and prove to everyone what I can do and what I can achieve."

NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Sunday, February 28
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
Chester v Tranmere Rovers (12.00)

Monday, February 29
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Chelmsford v Bishops Stortford.
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Hungerford v Bideford
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
SWL Cup, quarter-final: Team Solent v Salisbury.

Tuesday, March 1
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
Aldershot v Grimsby, Barrow v Boreham Wood, Braintree v Kidderminster, Bromley v Wellington, Dover v Southport, Eastleigh v Cheltenham, Macclesfield v Torquay.
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Bath City v Gosport Borough, Ebbsfleet v Havant & Waterlooville, Hayes & Yeading v Dartford, Truro v Weston-super-Mare.
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Biggleswade v Cirencester, Chesham v Histon, Leamington v Stratford, Merthyr Town v Chippenham, Paulton Rovers v Frome, Redditch v Poole Town, Slough v Kettering.
Division One South & West: Banbury v Bridgwater, Bishops Cleve v Basildon, Cinderford v Tiverton, Swindon Supermarine v Evesham, Wantage v Burnham.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Horndean v AFC Portchester.
ALDERSHOT SENIOR CUP
Eversley & California v Alresford Town.
DORSET SENIOR CUP
Semi-final: Weymouth v Dorchester Town.

Wednesday, March 2
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Division One South & West: Larkhall v Shortwood. Red Insure Cup, fourth round: Winchester City v Northwood.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Fawley v Newport IoW, Sholing v Lympstone Town, Whitchurch v Cowes Sports.
Division One: Amesbury v Portland, Andover NS v New Milton, Christown v Tadley Calleva, Fleet Spurs v Laverstock & Ford.
SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP
Semi-final: Blackfield & Langley v Netley Central Sports.
WILTSHIRE SENIOR CUP
Semi-final: Beaminster HH v Melksham.
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
PEPL Cup, semi-final: Hamble Club v Paulsgrove (at Locks Heath, 7.15)

Thursday, March 3
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Folland Sports v Andover Town, Moneyfields v Brockenhurst.

Friday, March 4
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
Forest Green Rovers v Grimsby (BT Sport).

Saturday, March 5
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
Altrincham v Macclesfield, Boreham Wood v Barrow, Braintree v Eastleigh, Chester v Bromley, Guisley v Wrexham, Lincoln v Aldershot, Southport v FC Halifax, Torquay v Kidderminster, Tranmere v Gateshead, Welling v Cheltenham, Woking v Dover.
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Concord v Wealdstone, Eastbourne Borough v Hayes & Yeading, Ebbsfleet v Gosport Borough, Havant & Waterlooville v Hemel Hempstead, Maidstone v Margate, Maidstone v Basingstoke, Oxford City v Bath City, St Albans v Sutton, Truro v Chelmsford, Weston-super-Mare v Dartford, Whithawk v Bishop's Stortford.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Cambridge City v Chippenham, Chesham v Bedworth, Frome v Biggleswade, Hitchin v Dorchester, Kettering v Cirencester, Kings Lynn v Hungerford, Merthyr Town v Leamington, Poole Town v Histon, Slough v Dunstable, St Neots v Paulton Rovers, Stratford v Bideford, Weymouth v Redditch.

Division One South & West: Basildon v Yate, Bishop's Cleeve v Burnham, Bridgwater v Didoit, Cinderford v Wantage, Evesham v Larkhall, Mangotsfield v Banbury, Marlow v Wimborne, North Leigh v Shortwood, Slimbridge v Taunton, Tiverton v AFC Totton, Wincsers City v Swindon Supermarine.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Andover Town v Cowes Sports, Beaminster HH v Fawley, Bournemouth Poppies v Folland Sports, Fareham v Brockenhurst, Hamworthy Utd v Alresford, Lympstone Town v Newport IoW, Moneyfields & Langley, Sholing v AFC Portchester, Whitchurch v Horndean.

Division One: AFC Stoneham v East Cowes Vics, Amesbury v Alton, Andover NS v Romsey, Christchurch v Fleet Spurs, Downton v US Portsmouth, Hythe & Dibden v Pewsey Vale, Laverstock & Ford v Portland, Tadley Calleva v New Milton, Totton & Elring v Ringwood.

HAMPSHIRE INTERMEDIATE CUP
Semi-final: Bournemouth Manor v Hedge End Rangers, Otterbourne v Bournemouth Electric.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
PEPL Combination Cup, semi-final: Overton Res v Liss Athletic Res (at Winchester Castle, 2.30)

Senior Division: Baffins Milton Rovers v Stockbridge, Bush Hill v Liphook, Clanfield v Infinity, Hamble Club v Winchester Castle, Heaviley v Overton, Liss v Colden Common, Locks Heath v Paulsgrove, QK Southampton v Fleetlands.

Division One: Hayling Utd v Netley Central, Lyndhurst v Michelmersh & Timbsbury, Sway v Four Marks, Upham v AFC Petersfield.

Combination East: AFC Potters Bar v Baffins Milton Rovers, Fleetlands v Hayling Utd.

Combination West: Hamble Club v Bush Hill, Hedge End Rangers v Otterbourne.

Non league FOOTBALL



'My City mates make it easy for me to score so often!'

Bentley tribute to Glasspool after reaching century

WARREN Bentley has credited his teammates with helping him achieve a quick-fire century of Winchester City goals.

It has taken City's 25-year-old leading man less than two seasons to fire himself into treble figures – an achievement that would not have been possible without a top-notch supporting cast, writes Wendy Gee.

Having found the net 134 times for his previous club Alresford Town – around 100 of which were crammed into two seasons – Bentley was always confident of scoring regularly when he returned to City in the summer of 2014.

But banging in goals galore in the Sydenhams Wessex League is one thing.

Repeating the trick in the Southern One South & West is a different challenge entirely.

He said: "I knew I'd score goals in the Wessex League last season, but it's more of an achievement this year being in the Southern League.

"It sums up the team I play in that I've managed to get to the 100-mark.

"At the beginning of the season I knew I needed another 44 goals to do it, but it wasn't until a couple of weeks ago that I realised I was getting close.

"You need a winning team to have a striker that scores 100 goals in two seasons and the service I get – especially the way the lads are playing this season – makes my job a hell of a lot easier."

Constant factor

One constant factor in Bentley's goal-getting achievements at Alresford and Winchester has been his trusty "partner in crime" Zach Glasspool.

The industrious No9 may not attract as much attention as his twinkle-toed sidekick but, in Bentley's eyes, he is every bit as vital to the side's success.

"Zach works selflessly for the team," he said. "He's upped his game and taken it to another level this season.

"He doesn't get the headlines he deserves, but he's always the first person to congratulate me for whatever I do."

"We see the game the same way and he's a big reason I've had the success I've had."

Bentley came up through the youth ranks with Winchester, playing at under-16 and under-18 level before progressing into the reserves.



Winchester's Warren Bentley, left.



Winchester's Zach Glasspool.

As a 17-year-old he played a handful of first-team games, mainly as a sub, during Steve Moss's time at the helm. He was a winger then, but didn't manage to score.

Finding the back of the net is second nature to him these days – as more and more Southern League defences are finding to their cost.

"I expected to score the amount of

goals I did last year, but this year I didn't set any concrete targets," said Bentley, a Sholing Technology College PE teacher.

"I wanted to see what the league was like first and, as it turns out, it suits me because you don't get teams sitting back and defending."

"Teams in this league want to play and that opens up more space for me

and that's shown in where we are in the table."

City rose into pole position with an easy 6-1 win over second-to-bottom Burnham last Saturday – Bentley and Glasspool bagging two-apiece as the Citizens raced into a 6-0 half-time lead.

With the pitch cutting up badly in gusty wind and rain and Burnham's defending leaving much to be desired, it wasn't the best showcase for the jewel in City's crown who was being watched by a Notts County scout.

As of Thursday, the League Two club had not been back in touch with Winchester – no great surprise to director of football Dave Malone.

"To be fair to Warren, how was he supposed to impress anyone in a game like that?" he said. "Burnham weren't good – particularly in the first half – and the conditions were awful."

"There's been no feedback from Notts County whatsoever, but it was the wrong game to watch him in. They'd do better to watch him at Banbury (today).

"It's a difficult situation for the club and for Warren. If he were 20 or 21 years old, I honestly don't think he would still be with us now."

"Luton, who were watching him earlier in the season, keep in touch from time to time, so they might come back at some stage."

"If a League club did come in for him, I would help Warren rather than hinder him."

Bootroom to board

FORMER striker Dean Holdsworth is expected to become the chairman of his old team Bolton once his consortium's bid to buy the club is finalised.

Holdsworth, 47, spent six years with Wanderers between 1997 and 2003 and will now return to the Macron Stadium to try and help them off the pitch.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the other players who swapped the bootroom for the boardroom.

DAVE WHELAN

Perhaps the biggest success story of a player-turned-chairman. The tale of how Whelan broke his leg in the 1960 FA Cup Final while playing for Blackburn is a familiar one – due to his penchant for recalling it – but he will best be remembered for his work as Wigan's chairman.

Having grown up in the town and made his fortune in the sports retail industry, Whelan oversaw Wigan's rise from the fourth tier to the top flight, where they spent eight seasons before being relegated in 2013 just days after winning the FA Cup. Whelan handed the reins over to his grandson last year shortly after serving an FA ban following racist comments he made in a newspaper.

FRANNY LEE

Born between Wigan and Bolton, Lee is fondly remembered for his time at Manchester City – although not for what he did there during his tenure as chairman. The prolific striker was a former club-record signing from Wanderers and won a top-flight title with City along with FA Cup and League Cup winners' medals.

Lee then made his money away from the game with a toilet-roll manufacturing business prior to returning to Maine Road in a popular move as chairman in the mid-1990s. However, he was unable to replicate his success as both a player and businessman, with City almost sliding out of two divisions during his four years.

NIALL QUINN

Just two years Holdsworth's senior, Quinn featured in two World Cups for the Republic of Ireland and enjoyed long playing stints at Arsenal, Manchester City and Sunderland before retiring with the latter in 2002.

It was with the Black Cats that Quinn ventured into the boardroom after gaining control with an Irish-based consortium in 2006. He initially managed for a short time too prior to Roy Keane's hiring, when the club were promoted back to the Premier, where they remained for Quinn's five years in the post.

'ZACH WORKS SELFLESSLY... HE DOESN'T GET THE HEADLINES HE DESERVES'

Non league FOOTBALL



'I'm feeling old', says club stalwart now in 400-club

Kevin Brewster is now targeting 500-plus games for Sholing FC

SHOLING stalwart Kevin Brewster admits he is "feeling old" after entering the 400-club in last Saturday's 2-1 victory at Poppies.

The long-serving right-back joined Marvin McLean and Barry Mason in the Boatmen's record books after making his 400th appearance for the club at Victoria Park, writes Neil Vincent.

"I feel very old!" he remarked. "I'm 33 now, 34 in July. When I think back to all the other clubs I've played for it makes me wonder just how many games I've actually played in my career!"

Brewster doesn't believe he's over the hill yet and has his sights set on the next milestone.

"If I can hit 500 I'd be delighted, you never know," he added. "I've just got to stay injury-free and obviously make sure I've still got that same level of enjoyment. I've just recently got back from a skiing holiday and I feel fighting fit and raring to go."

"I can feel that I need more rest in between games, my job and my soccer schools. The extra time cup game at Newport (on Tuesday) really took a lot out of me, especially after not playing for a while. But there's still fire in the belly and fuel in the tank!"

With 52 goals in his 400-plus appearances, the right back reckons his goal-scoring exploits make him better than one of the Premier League's high-scoring full backs.

"It's not a competition, I'm better than Leighton Baines!" he joked. The Everton defender has managed 34 goals in the same period, but Brewster, who scored his eighth goal of the campaign from the spot in the Boatmen's 3-2 defeat at Newport is now guaranteed to at least match his highest scoring season of 2008/09.

"But seriously, I just want to keep getting myself about the pitch, taking the free-kicks, corners and penalties and getting a few goals too but it's definitely getting harder now I'm older."

"I'm probably the second highest scorer this season behind Dan Mason and I'm meant to be a right back, but I guess I do try to



Kevin Brewster, left, and Mike Carter celebrate Sholing's Vase win in 2014.

sneak up the pitch a bit!"

Brewster has nothing but praise for his footballing home.

"It's a lovely, local club," he said. "We're all mates, we've all played together for years and we all enjoy our football together. We're a close-knit bunch and I

think that's reflected in the fact that so many of us have played so many games."

Brewster has won the Wessex League and Southampton Senior Cup with Sholing, but his highlight came at Wembley two years ago.

"The second time I won the FA Vase is the highlight," he said.

"I didn't play in the first final back in the day (with Winchester City), but the one in 2014 was special. It was like playing with your mates at Wembley. It was a dream come true."

Diaper: Extra-time rule is unfair

SHOLING manager Dave Diaper was annoyed at having to play extra-time at Newport IoW on Tuesday.

The Boatmen were 2-0 up in their Sydenham League Cup quarter-final, courtesy of a Kevin Brewster penalty and a stunning strike from Alex Sawyer, writes Jack Prentice.

But they were pegged back to 2-2 after 90 minutes before a last-gasp – and unfortunate – penalty sent them crashing out 3-2.

Diaper feels that having to play an extra 30 minutes cost his side on their cross-Solent travels.

"I think it's an unfair advantage to have extra-time in these games if you're the home team," he said.

"When you have to travel by ferry, for it to go to extra-time isn't fair. We were unfortunate."

Diaper also feels that the penalty given away by Jake Hoole for a challenge on Lewis Keeble right at the end was a tad unlucky for the youngster.

"To go out because of a last-minute penalty is hard to take really," he confessed.

"It was a little bit of inexperience from Jake but, to be fair, their guy ran across him and so any touch he gets, he's going down and that is what happened."

"I just hope it doesn't affect Jake's confidence. It's one of those things in football, it does happen."

"He's only 17 and starting out his career in football, so all of these experiences will be a learning curve and improve him as a player."

The Boatmen's boss was also disappointed that Newport were allowed back into the game shortly after Sholing had just gone 2-0 up.

"The first goal we conceded, okay it's a good free kick but we should not have given away a free kick in the final third of the pitch," he said.

"I thought we were going to make it to the end but, sadly, it wasn't meant to be."

Midfielder Sawyer agreed.

"It is always disappointing to lose a two-goal lead and when it goes to extra-time it's going to be a long night," he said.

"There is a lack of match fitness because of postponements, but we shouldn't throw away a big lead. We haven't played many games and it was a factor."

Diaper did see one big positive from the cup exit. It means another fixture will not be added to a list that reads 21 games in 68 days.

"We've only played four games in about eight weeks and we have 21 games left," he said. "It's going to be a really tough. The distance between the games hasn't helped us, it's been one game every two or three weeks."



Alex Sawyer

Ex-Saints star Adam set to miss cup final

EX-SAINT Adam Lallana, along with midfielder Joe Allen and defender Martin Skrtel have all returned to training with the first team but may find it difficult to win a place in Liverpool's Capital One Cup final squad.

The first two have not featured since February 6 because of calf and hamstring problems while the Reds' Slovakian centre-back has been sidelined since mid-December, although fellow defender Dejan Lovren has recovered from illness earlier this week.

Jurgen Klopp made just one change for Thursday's Europa League win over Augsburg and with Lucas Leiva occupying a role in defence in that game the manager has to decide whether to swap him with a genuine centre-back or a midfielder.

Klopp, meanwhile, will tell his players to trust his gameplan as he knows how to win trophies.

Manchester City are the favourites for Sunday's Capital One Cup final but being the unfancied side has never stopped Klopp in the past and it will not at Wembley.

The 48-year-old has won the German Super Cup twice and the DFB-Pokal (German Cup) once in addition to his two Bundesliga titles with Borussia Dortmund, who he also led to the 2013



FINAL DOUBT: Adam Lallana

Champions League final.

Former Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard, writing in his column for the Daily Telegraph, said Klopp would be the difference in the League Cup final.

And the Reds boss agreed with the LA Galaxy midfielder.

"Thank you Stevie, I gave him £100 for this!" he joked.

"Stevie so often in his life made the right decisions and said the right things so hopefully this is the truth too."

"I am not sure I am the difference but I know the way. There is absolutely no reason at this moment to have a doubt."

"I have to show it as clear as possible so there is no misunderstanding between my mouth and the ears of the players."

"We do this job in professional football, we only want to win things: titles, cups, whatever."

"A lot of managers work their whole lives and can be really successful but have never the chance to win something. Now everything is possible."

Liverpool's last piece of silverware came in this competition four years ago with a penalty shoot-out victory over Cardiff.

Provisional squad: Mignolet, Clyne, Toure, Sakho, Moreno, Lucas, Henderson, Milner, Firmino, Coutinho, Sturridge, Ward, Flanagan, Lovren, Can, Teixeira, Benteke, Origi, Ibe, Lallana.

IT'S been a real rollercoaster ride for Saints supporters this season.

Ups and downs. Highs and lows. Good points and bad points. Positives and negatives.

Here, **PETER HOWARD** rides the rollercoaster to bring you his view of the 2015/16 season so far.

BAD - Victor Wanyama's uncertain future and indiscipline

Not only has he literally been a bad boy, having got sent off three times this season so far, Wanyama has continually been linked with a move away from St Mary's and seems unlikely to sign a new contract with the club this summer.

He may have put in numerous good performances, but his refusal to be clear about his future and his indiscipline - red cards coming against Cherries, Norwich and West Ham - can only mean he has been a negative point this term.

GOOD - Charlie Austin's arrival

He's yet to get his Saints career properly under way, having not started a game so far since his bargain £4m January arrival from Southampton FC.

But, nonetheless, he represents something really refreshing for Southampton FC. That is because he is a big-name transfer coming into the club, rather than departing.

That is something that Saints have had to deal a lot with over recent seasons, with Morgan Schneiderlin, Nathaniel Clyne, Adam Lallana and Luke Shaw all among high-profile departures.

So it was something of huge pride to sign a player who has been in such demand, rather than losing yet another key player.

BAD - Jay Rodriguez's struggles

It has been a long, long time since Jay Rodriguez was at his fearsome best.

Once upon a time, he petrified defences by running straight at them and shooting from distance. He was direct and quick.

However, Rodriguez was still working hard on getting back to full fitness, after his horrendous knee injury that kept him out for 16 long months, when he was dealt another cruel blow with a foot injury.

It looks like he's close to a return again now, but will we ever see Rodriguez at his best again?

GOOD - Fraser Forster's unbelievable return from injury

When Fraser Forster returned from injury a few days after the club's FA Cup exit last month, Saints were a mess.

They were on a dreadful run and were low on confidence. There was even talk of relegation at one point.

Then, Forster steps in and six games later Saints haven't conceded a goal and are in the top six in

the Premier League.

The highs and lows



GOOD: The arrival of Charlie Austin, pictured celebrating his goal against Manchester United, for a bargain £4m



BAD: Victor Wanyama's uncertain future and indiscipline. The midfielder has been sent off three times this season

the Premier League.

He has been quite sensational since he recovered from a ruptured patellar tendon and has been instrumental in Saints' dramatic turnaround.

BAD - The lack of emerging tal-

ent from Saints' academy

Ronald Koeman admitted that he felt much of the talent in Saints' famed academy is not up to Premier League standard.

It has been a subject of huge pride that Saints have continued to develop young talent that can be used in

the first-team.

But, for the first time in a while, it seems the conveyor belt is starting to slow.

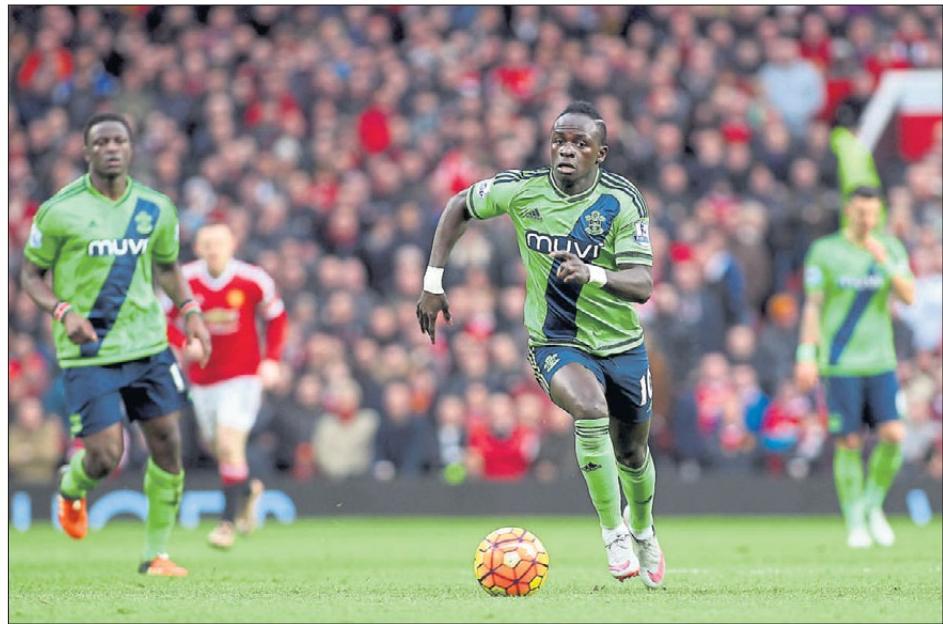
In saying that, though, two of the club's academy graduates James Ward-Prowse and Matt Targett are playing regularly for the first-team.

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of Saints' season



GOOD: Fraser Forster's unbelievable return from injury



GOOD: When you have Sadio Mane, pictured, Charlie Austin and Dusan Tadic on the bench, you know you have strength in depth

So all is not lost and, of course, with the club now thriving in the Premier League it was always going to be tougher to bring through youngsters anyway, with competition fierce for places.

GOOD - Buying Virgil van Dijk
Toby Alderweireld was an abso-

lutely outstanding centre-back for Saints last season.

There was talk that the Atletico Madrid loanee was possibly the best defender EVER to play for the club.

There was an agreement in place that Saints would be able to sign him last summer, but Tottenham

nipped in and signed the impressive Belgian instead.

Saints couldn't react and lost out his signature, which was a major disappointment.

Ronald Koeman's side looked fragile at the back, conceding three at home to Everton and letting two in against Newcastle in the early

phases of this season.

They were nowhere near as solid at the back as they were with Alderweireld in there.

It was a huge worry.

But Van Dijk's £11m arrival from Celtic helped change all that.

He has proved a very capable replacement for Alderweireld and any that disappointment has completely dispersed.

BAD - One win in ten games

Saints went on a quite awful run from November to January, losing eight times in a 10-game period and crashing out of both domestic cups.

It was a run so bad that the dreaded topic of relegation was even mentioned.

It was a period when captain Jose Fonte demanded more quality to be brought in.

There were horrific defensive errors and plenty of missed chances in front of goal.

Saints eventually came out the other side, but it was a disturbing run of form nonetheless.

GOOD - Strength in depth

When you have Sadio Mane, Charlie Austin and Dusan Tadic on the bench, you know you have a strong squad.

Ronald Koeman revealed that he felt this current team is the strongest he's had at the club since his arrival ahead of the 2014/15 campaign.

It's easy to see why he's said that too.

There are numerous options all over the pitch and competition for places is fierce.

The only difficulty of that is Koeman needing to keep all of those players happy.

BAD - Cup failures

One thing that Saints have spoken about a lot is their ambition to win a cup, but they have got no closer to getting their mitts on some silverware this term.

It has been 40 years since their one and only FA Cup win now.

Saints were just three games from the final of the Capital One Cup for the second successive season, but were smashed 6-1 by Liverpool in the quarter-final of that competition at St Mary's. That was after a great start given to them by a first minute Sadio Mane goal.

That was then followed by a drab FA Cup third round exit to Crystal Palace.

GOOD - Shane Long

Long was considered expensive when he arrived from West Brom in a £12m deal, but this season he has been outstanding.

When Graziano Pelle was ruled out with injury, Long stepped into a regular starting role and has been causing havoc ever since.

He will arguably up for player of the season after some relentless performances, and is also joint nine-goal top-scorer with Pelle.

Patchy form not a worry for Van Gaal

LOUIS van Gaal is unconcerned by Manchester United's topsy-turvy displays ahead of the visit of an Arsenal side he considers "on another level".

This has been a tough season at Old Trafford, where there have been more troughs than peaks as the club continue to fail to reach the heights scaled under Sir Alex Ferguson.

However, Thursday's Europa League 5-1 thrashing of FC Midtjylland provided some timely relief, especially with old foes Arsenal arriving for a Barclays Premier League encounter just days after the 5-1 win.

Sunday's match offers United, just one point ahead of Saints before this weekend's games, the chance to go on a three-match winning run for just the fourth time this season - a statistic that crosses the competitions and underlines United's inconsistency.

Van Gaal was dismissive when asked about that, though, instead pointing to the injury crisis that has enveloped his side, and outside perceptions of his team.

"It's football - you can win, lose or draw," he said. "The media is inconsistent. That's different. It is the media."

"Yeah, Sunderland we didn't lose because of the media, that is true. But



Louis van Gaal

the media makes it bigger than it is. And always.

"Five-one Manchester City lost against Chelsea, and what was then?"

Van Gaal laughed when it was pointed out that City fielded a team of youngsters and those on the periphery in the FA Cup defeat.

"Oh, is that the second team?" he asked. "And what am I doing now then?

"It is unbelievable, it's the same, but we don't lose with such a difference.

"You have to analyse the results of Manchester United."

"We have only lost one game three-zero to Arsenal, and they're on another level, in my opinion."

United's attempts to avoid a similar shellacking to the title-chasing Gunners have been damaged somewhat by a lengthy injury list, which Anthony Martial joined during the warm-up on Thursday.

Marcus Rashford was thrown in at the last minute and flourished under the Old Trafford floodlights, netting a crucial double on his debut.

The 18-year-old striker could get another look-in if Martial fails to recover from a hamstring complaint, with questions remaining over the Frenchman's fitness.

"I cannot say that but it is not so heavy as everybody thinks, but you never know," Van Gaal said.

Saints v Chelsea - highs and lows

Saints v Chelsea - a post-war history

September 19 1962 - Second Division

Saints 2 Chelsea 1

George Kirby scored on his Saints debut as the club avenged a 2-0 loss at Stamford Bridge just nine days earlier.

Kirby, signed from Plymouth for £15,000, required only 15 minutes to get off the mark for his new club.

Ian White's brilliant volley from the edge of the penalty box doubled Saints' advantage, with Barry Bridges replying late on.

Despite the loss, the Blues would go on to win the second tier title that season with Saints mid-table.

September 3 1966 - First Division

Saints 0 Chelsea 3

Future Saint Peter Osgood was among the goals as Chelsea comfortably won on their first top flight visit to The Dell.

George Graham scored the only goal of the first half, with Osgood doubling Chelsea's lead and Bobby Tambling adding a third.

January 6 1968 - First Division

Saints 3 Chelsea 5

Remarkably, this was the second eight-goal encounter between the two clubs that season.

Ron Davies had grabbed four goals - including a hat-trick inside the opening half-hour - as Saints won 6-2 at Stamford Bridge in September 1966.

But it was Chelsea's turn to win this time, after Mick Channon had put Saints into an early lead.

Charlie Cooke, Tommy Baldwin, Bobby Tambling and John Boyle hit back for the Blues.

Ron Davies made it 4-2 before Peter Osgood hit Chelsea's fifth.

Davies had the final say, with his fifth goal in two matches against Chelsea.

February 1 1969 - First Division

Saints 5 Chelsea 0

Saints stormed into a 3-0 lead in the first half through headers from Mick Channon and Jimmy Gabriel plus an own goal from ex-Saints defender Dave Webb.

Ron Davies continued his superb scoring streak against Chelsea with a second half brace.

August 23 1969 - First Division

Saints 2 Chelsea 2

Terry Paine fired the hosts into an early lead, only for Peter Osgood to equalise.

Fred Kemp restored Saints' advantage, before Osgood lashed in a second leveller 16 minutes from time.

February 27 1971 - First Division

Saints 0 Chelsea 0

April 18 1972 - First Division

Saints 2 Chelsea 2

All four goals were crammed into the last 18 minutes of the second half.

Ron Davies - who else! - put Saints in front on 72 minutes before Tommy Baldwin levelled five minutes later. Two minutes later Davies restored the hosts' lead, but Baldwin followed suit with his second of the afternoon.

November 18 1972 - First Division

Saints 3 Chelsea 1



Rickie Lambert curls in a free kick winner against Chelsea in March 2013.



Jay Rodriguez scores in Saints' 2-1 win against Chelsea in March 2013.

Peter Osgood put Chelsea ahead, but Brian O'Neil levelled with a 35-yard piledriver.

Ron Davies maintained his amazing record against the Blues with two second half goals in four minutes.

November 24 1973 - First Division

Saints 0 Chelsea 4

Saints defender Paul Bennett put Chelsea on the road to victory with a fourth minute own goal. Steve Kember put the game beyond Saints with two goals in four second half minutes and Chris Garland also

netted.

October 11 1975 - Second Division

Saints 4 Chelsea 1

Mick Channon netted twice for Saints in front of watching England manager Don Revie.

Channon opened the scoring from the penalty spot, before second half goals arrived from Bobby Stokes, Nick Holmes and Channon. Ray Wilkins grabbed a late consolation.

December 7 1976 - Second Division

Saints 1 Chelsea 1

Ted MacDougall put Saints in front in the second minute, with Steve Finnieston grabbing a second half leveller.

December 26 1978 - First Division

Saints 0 Chelsea 0

A drab goalless stalemate in a season which ended with Chelsea relegated back to the second tier.

October 20 1984 - First Division

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Highs and lows on south coast



James Beattie is mobbed after the first of his two goals against Chelsea in 2000.



Sadio Mane scores for Saints against Chelsea in December 2014.

Saints 1 Chelsea 0
Steve Moran scored the only goal in the 11th minute.

March 22 1986 - First Division
Saints 0 Chelsea 1
Defender Colin Pates grabbed the only goal just after the hour mark.

December 26 1986 - First Division
Saints 1 Chelsea 2
Colin Clarke gave Saints the lead, but the Blues hit back through Joe McLaughlin

and John Bumstead.
October 24 1987 - First Division

Saints 3 Chelsea 0
Graham Baker, Colin Clarke and Danny Wallace netted against a Chelsea side who were once again relegated at the end of the season.

March 3 1990 - First Division
Saints 2 Chelsea 3
Rod Wallace put Saints in control with two goals inside the opening half hour.

Kevin Wilson quickly pulled a goal back, before Chelsea stole victory in the last ten minutes.

First, Tony Dorigo levelled on 81 minutes before Gordon Durie struck a winner 60 seconds later.

December 6 1990 - First Division
Saints 3 Chelsea 3

Alan Shearer opened the scoring, but Chelsea led through Kevin Wilson and Steve Clarke.

Back came Saints with a Neil Ruddock leveller before Rod Wallace fired them in front for a second time. Ex-Saints apprentice Dennis Wise rescued a point for Chelsea with a 73rd minute penalty.

November 23, 1991 - First Division
Saints 1 Chelsea 0
Alan Shearer scored the only goal with a first half header.

April 10 1993 - Premier League
Saints 1 Chelsea 0

Nicky Banger was Saints' goal hero in this game, scoring four minutes into the second half.

December 27 1993 - Premier League
Saints 3 Chelsea 1

Tommy Widdrington fired Saints ahead early on, with Mark Stein equalising before half-time. Iain Dowie put Ian Branfoot's Saints back in front, before winger Frankie Bennett struck a third - the only league goal he would ever score for the club.

December 3 1994 - Premier League
Saints 0 Chelsea 1

Paul Furlong popped up in the 89th minute to score the winner.

February 24 1995 - Premier League
Saints 2 Chelsea 3

Ruud Gullit scored Chelsea's second half winner.

Tommy Widdrington had opened the scoring for the second season running, before Dennis Wise had turned the game on

its head with two goals in six minutes - the second a penalty.

Saints were level at 2-2 after 38 minutes, through, with Neil Shipperley scoring against his former club.

August 18 1996 - Premier League

Saints 0 Chelsea 0

Richard Dryden made his league debut for Saints on the opening day of the season.

December 29 1997 - Premier League

Saints 1 Chelsea 0

Kevin Davies scored the winner on 16 minutes.

December 26 1998 - Premier League

Saints 0 Chelsea 2

Patrick Collette's debut was ruined by goals from Tor Andre Flo and Gus Poyet.

December 26 1999 - Premier League

Saints 1 Chelsea 2

Norwegian striker Tor Andre Flo was again Chelsea's hero, with both goals in the first half. Kevin Davies grabbed a second half consolation.

November 4 2000 - Premier League

Saints 3 Chelsea 2

James Beattie fired in a thunderous injury time free kick to decide a thrilling encounter.

Saints had led 2-0 through Beattie and Jo Tessem, with Chelsea battling back through Dennis Wise and Gus Poyet.

August 25 2001 - Premier League

Saints 0 Chelsea 2

The Blues pooped Saints' party in the first competitive game at St Mary's.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink opened the scoring, and Mario Stanic added a second in front of a crowd of 33,107.

August 28 2002 - Premier League

Saints 1 Chelsea 1

Fabrice Fernandes put Saints ahead, with Frank Lampard levelling ten minutes from time.

November 22 2003 - Premier League

Saints 0 Chelsea 1

Mario Melchiot netted the only goal two minutes into the second half.

April 2 2005 - Premier League

Saints 1 Chelsea 3

Jose Mourinho's Blues took another big step towards the club's first Premier League title.

Frank Lampard and Eidur Gudjohnsen scored in the first half and, after Kevin Phillips' reply, Gudjohnsen struck again seven minutes from time.

March 30 2013 - Premier League

Saints 2 Chelsea 1

Rickie Lambert struck a stunning free-kick winner.

All the goals arrived in the first half, with Jay Rodriguez putting Mauricio Pochettino's men in front and John Terry levelling.

January 1 2014 - Premier League

Saints 0 Chelsea 3

All the goals this time came in the second half, with Fernando Torres, Willian and Oscar on target.

December 28 2014 - Premier League

Saints 1 Chelsea 1

Sadio Mane put Saints in front, with Eden Hazard levelling on the stroke of half-time.

Morgan Schneiderlin was sent off with two minutes left.

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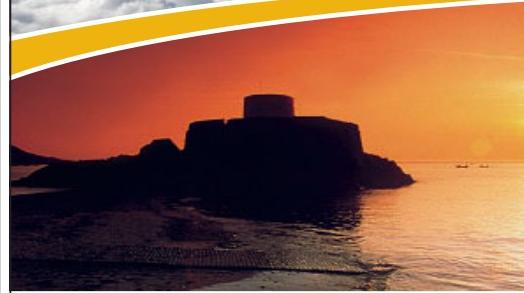
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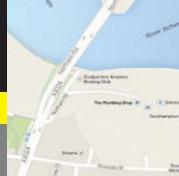
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DAILY ECHO

SAINTS SPOTLIGHT



Ossie: Forever a legend at Saints and Chelsea

Wembley winner passed away ten years ago next week

PETER Osgood will forever hold a place in the hearts of Saints fans as a member of the club's fabled 1976 FA Cup winning team.

As the 40th anniversary celebrations prepare to start in earnest in late April, sadly he will be one of the two players absent from any get-togethers.

Goalscorer Bobby Stokes was the first to pass away, in 1995.

And it's ten years to the day next Tuesday that Osgood followed him to the great football stadium in the sky, following a heart attack while attending a family funeral.

He was only 59.

Osgood was a marquee signing by Lawrie McMenemy in the spring of 1974.

At the time, Osgood was perhaps second only to George Best in the glamour ratings and their club secretary Keith Honey questioned the wisdom of signing 'a fancy Dan'.

Having played all his career in the top flight for Chelsea, Saints suffered a shock resignation to the second tier within months of Osgood's arrival at The Dell.

Osgood played the last ten game of the 1973/74 season for Saints.

Only two of them were won – Osgood scoring his first goal for the club in a final-day 3-0 win at Everton that failed to keep the club in the top flight.

Osgood went on to score 13 goals in 40 Second Division outings in 1974/75.

Mick Channon top scored with 20, but Saints could still only muster a mid-table finish in their first season outside the elite league since 1965/66.

It was the following season, 1975/76, that Osgood was to write his name into the pantheon of Saints' FA Cup legends.

His major contribution en route to that famous day at Wembley came in the quarter final at fourth division Bradford City.

Osgood provided a moment of mercurial magic, volleying in a free-kick which Jim McCalliog had flicked up to him for the only goal of the tie.

Used to playing as a centre forward at Stamford Bridge, Osgood had been used in a more withdrawn role by McMenemy.

As a result, he scored only six league goals in 33 appearances in 1975/76 – all of them coming before the end of January.

He remained a regular in 1976/77, making 30 league outings and scoring six times.

Osgood was to score three goals in 13 second tier games in 1977/78 prior to leaving Saints and moving to American to play for Philadelphia Fury.

Though fondly remembered at The Dell for his part in the club's greatest ever day, Osgood is known throughout football as a Chelsea legend.



Lawrie McMenemy and Peter Osgood at the player's unveiling at The Dell in 1974.



Peter Osgood scores Saints' only goal in the 1976 FA Cup quarter final win at Bradford City.

He is still revered at Stamford Bridge, and a statue – erected in 2010 – is in place outside the ground.

In a memorial service in October 2006, Osgood's ashes had been buried under the penalty spot at the Shed End of Stamford

Bridge.

Osgood made his Blues debut in 1965/66 and was part of a golden era at Chelsea until he became Saints' record signing at £275,000 in March 1974.

He made an instant impact at Stamford

Bridge when he netted twice on his debut against Workington in a fifth-round League Cup replay.

His best season in terms of goals came in 1969/70 when he blasted 31 in all competitions – 23 of them in 38 First Division games.

Osgood opened his league account with a brace in a 2-2 draw at The Dell in August 1969 – one of seven league games Chelsea played that month due to the season finishing in mid-April because of the World Cup in Mexico the following summer.

Osgood struck four times on December 27 1969 in a 5-1 win at Crystal Palace in front of a crowd of almost 50,000 at Selhurst Park.

A few weeks later he hit a treble against Sunderland.

Such form did not go unnoticed by Sir Alf Ramsey and in February 1970, four days after his 23rd birthday, Osgood made his senior England international debut.

As well as his 23 league goals, he also became the ninth – and last – player to score in every round of the FA Cup.

In all, Osgood struck nine times in eight cup ties, including a hat-trick in a 4-2 quarter final win at West London rivals Queens Park Rangers.

After a 2-2 draw at Wembley against Leeds United in the final, Osgood was on target as Chelsea won the replay at Old Trafford 2-1.

That win took the club into the European Cup Winners Cup, and the Blues lifted their first ever European silverware 12 months later.

Osgood, again, played an instrumental role.

He put Chelsea ahead in the final against Real Madrid in the Greek city of Piraeus. Ignacio Zoco levelled, though, in the 90th minute.

Extra time failed to produce any more goals and, in these pre penalty shoot-out days, the teams returned to the same venue for a replay just two days later.

First half goals from defender John Dempsey and Osgood again put Chelsea in command, and this time they held onto the lead – eventually winning 2-1.

In the semi-finals, Chelsea had beaten holders Manchester City 2-0 on aggregate – winning each leg by a single goal.

That glory night in Greece more than helped Osgood forget a barren First Division run in 1970-71.

He only managed five goals in 27 appearances – including a brace against West Ham – as the Blues slipped from third place to sixth.

For a man of his skill, it was considered a travesty that he only even won four England senior caps.

After making his debut in February 1970, he went on to make two sub appearances in that summer's World Cup finals in Mexico.

His last appearance for his country came in November 1973, just a few months prior to his move to the south coast.

● Peter Osgood picture special - turn over the page.

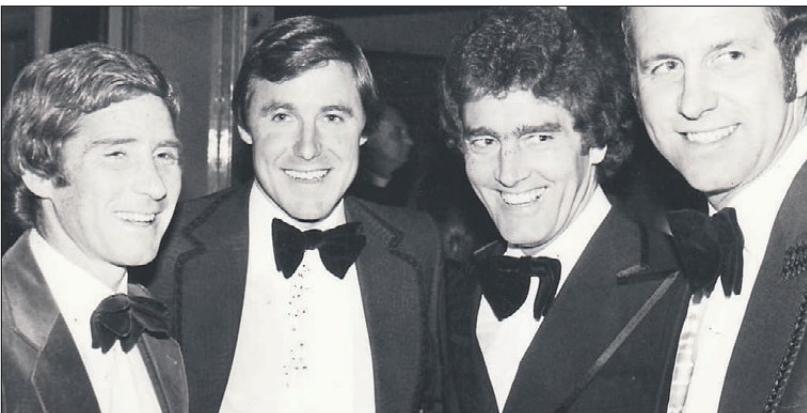
Life and times of Saints' FA Cup winning star Peter Osgood



Peter Osgood rises to win a header at The Dell in 1974.



Peter Osgood in action for Saints against Wolves.



From left - Alan Ball, Keith Miller, Ted MacDougall and Peter Osgood at a Sportsman's Dinner at the Majestic Hotel, Bournemouth, in November 1979. The dinner was to pay tribute to Miller's service to the Cherries.



Saints' greatest day. Bobby Stokes and Peter Osgood with the FA Cup.



Nice tie. Peter Osgood arrives at The Dell in March 1974 for a club record £275,000.



Peter Osgood in pre-season training with Saints in the summer of 1974.

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Ex-Saints get together in 1988 to fund raise for Steve Mills. Back (from left): Kevin Moore, Ian Turner, Trevor Hebbert, Peter Osgood, Steve Williams. Front: Glenn Cockerill, Bobby Stokes, David Peach and Nick Holmes.



Lawrie MacMenemy with Mel Blyth and Peter Osgood who made 100 appearances for Saints on the same day over Easter 1977.



Peter Osgood on the ball against Burnley in September 1977.



Peter Osgood at The Dell on a commemorative 1976 FA Cup winning chair.



Jim McCalloch, Peter Osgood and Jim Steele visit the Daily Echo in April 1976.



Peter Osgood's funeral at St John the Baptist church, Shedfield.



Peter Osgood and Lawrie Mc Menemy with the FA Cup.



Peter Osgood's widow Lynn pictured with a banner before a game in her late husband's memory at Eastleigh in 2006 between teams of ex-Saints and ex-Chelsea players.

King treble helps Southampton win

EMMA King grabbed a hat-trick as Southampton Saints Reserves won 5-1 at Chichester City. Suffering something of an injury crisis, the reserves were down to the bare bones, stealing Hannah Haughton from the first team and U16s Siena White and Alisha Buckingham.

King's confidence up front was supplied well by the chances provided from Holmes and Evans on either flank, linking up well with the triangle of Pearce, Eley, and Villa Rodriguez in the middle.

Saints finally broke the deadlock in the 22nd minute when King unleashed a ferocious left footed shot, leaving the keeper with no chance.

Two minutes later, Saints doubled the lead - King scrambling the ball in after a shot from Evans had been saved.

Audacious

Chichester replied soon after, and at half-time Saints brought on both their subs as Kirsty Parkinson and Kelly Holmes were struggling.

The gamble paid off after quarter of an hour of play when White, moving forward from right back, played a one-two with Buckingham, before trying an audacious attempt from wide right that flew into the back of the net.

Haughton wasn't called upon much in the second half, but did very well with what little she had to do.

The fluidity and understanding of roles between Pearce, Eley, and Villa Rodriguez was perhaps the best display from any midfield triangle the reserves have employed this season.

They were intercepting passes, springing attacks, and working out great combinations with the wide players on both sides of the pitch.

Rhyannon Evans celebrated her first start with her first goal, before King completed her triple two minutes later.

The Reserves face bitter rivals Portsmouth this Sunday.

Portsmouth Reserves defeated Lewes Ladies 6-0 with four goals from Southampton FC Futsal student Kayleigh Tonks.

blob - Southampton Saints Ladies cruised into the Southampton FA Women's Cup final after beating their reserve side 7-2.

In Hampshire Women's League Division 1, the top four sides all had good days.

Warsash Wasps and Winchester Reserves had comfortable away wins and leaders Alton Utd beat Rushmoor.

Alton can't relax, though, because the Wasps are level on points with four games in hand on them. AFC Boscombe trounced Mudford Phoenix 5-1.

Division 2 saw the bottom two face each other with the wooden spoon at stake, and Southamp-

ton Women's Reserves lost 5-2 to QK Southampton. Jessica Pidgeley scored twice for the winners.

In Division 3, Rebecca Anderson blasted a double hat-trick as Sholing Ladies conceded eight at Petersfield. Chelsea Bates (2) and Williams replied.

A below strength Winchester City Women lost 3-1 to bottom placed Fleet Town Reserves, who were celebrating their first win of the season.

In the Hampshire FA Cup, a strong Portsmouth FC buried Southampton Women 10-2.

Tough schedule

Southampton Women hosted Winchester in a midweek game and probably expected a comfortable win. But with the Flyers star striker Amelia Cutler claiming a brace, they were held 2-2 in Southern Region North Division 1.

In the youth section of the Hampshire FA Cup, Southampton Saints G&LFC U16 needed to be on top form against Corfe Mullen.

They were required to play the County Cup semi final just 24 hours after beating Winchester City 6-1 in the Winchester District League Cup.

Despite the tough schedule, Saints won 2-1. Warsash Wasps beat Wey Valley 7-0 in the Winchester League Cup, Justine Hammond scoring four of them.

SPORT BIRTHDAYS

Graeme Pollock (cricket) - Former South Africa Test batsman and uncle of former Proteas star Shaun, born 1944.

Mark Taylor (rugby union) - former Wales centre, who scored the first try at the Millennium Stadium in 1999, born 1973.

Colin Edwards (motor cycling) - American two-time World Superbike champion and former MotoGP rider, born 1974.

James Beattie (soccer) - former England, Southampton, Everton and Sheffield United striker, born 1978.

Paul Wellens (rugby league) - former St Helens full-back and England international, born 1980.

Jonjo Shelvey (soccer) - Newcastle midfielder, capped once by England, born 1992.

Callum Wilson (soccer) - Bournemouth and England Under-21 striker, born 1992.

ON THIS DAY IN SPORT

1959: The Boston Celtics scored 173 points against Minneapolis. It was a new National Basketball Association (NBA) record points total and remains the highest score in any game not needing overtime.

1990: Cambridge became the first Fourth Division side for 14 years to reach the quarter-finals of the FA Cup after beating Bristol City.

1991: Tony Adams played his first game for Arsenal following his release from prison. He led the team to a 1-0 win over Shrewsbury in an FA Cup fifth-round tie.

2000: Leicester won the last League Cup final at the old Wembley, a 2-1 victory over Tranmere seeing them lift the Worthington Cup.

2001: The British Horseracing Board and Jockey Club announced that racing in Britain would be suspended for seven days due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

2011: Birmingham beat Arsenal 2-1 to win the Carling Cup final, Obafemi Martins scoring a late winner after a mix-up between defender Laurent Koscielny and goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny.

Magic Munday is a star on Sunday for Hunters Inn

TOM Munday scored a hat-trick as Hunters Inn stormed through to the semi finals of the Hampshire FA Junior B Sunday Cup.

Hunters led 3-0 at half-time and ended up winning 6-1 against Cove Manor, with Ashley McGimpsey, Henry Rule and Ross Hall also on target.

AFC Waterside are through to the final of the Southampton FA Sunday Junior A Cup after beating Durley 2-1. Following a goalless first half, Damo Davies and Niall O'Connor netted with Ash Dallimore replying.

Lyndhurst booked their place in the Southampton FA Sunday Junior B Cup final with a 2-0 win against A.F.C. Spitfire. Ben Hatch and Adam Brett were on target.

Andy Phillips was the Boyatt Wood Wanderers' hat-trick hero as they reached the last four of the AJ Miller Trophy. Nick Beattie also scored twice for Wanderers, while Lee Bore (3) and Tony Sullivan replied.

Mike Saunders (2) and Ben Boyce scored as KRL defeated Hedge End Athletic to reach the semi finals. Joe Williams replied.

Lewis Crook belted a hat-trick as Hamble Roll Call took their place in the last four following a 6-2 drubbing of Titans. Russell Medcalf (2) and Sean Tollerive also scored with Aiden Reidy twice replying.

Cricketers Arms (Fair Oak) defeated Testlands 3-1 in the only City of Southampton Sunday League Senior Division game played. Sam Treadaway, Si Eastwood and Liam Harris were on target.

Danny Mead and Craig Howells both scored twice as Lokomotiv defeated Bishopstoke 4-1 in Junior Division 1. James Bright replied.

Pete Barlow's strike gave A.F.C.



Lewis Crook scored a hat-trick for Hamble Roll Call in the AJ Miller Trophy.

Portswood victory over Test Valley Spartans.

Mike Collins, Sam Robson and Aaron Smith netted as AFC Riverside defeated Chamberlayne Athletic 3-2. Lee Osborne and Stephen Marcin replied.

Josh Daley struck a hat-trick as King George hammered Portsdown 7-1 in Junior Division 3. Josh Barclay,

Paul Abrahams, Sam Norris and Matt Smith also netted, with David Fitzpatrick replying.

Alex Waterman (2), James Willis and Dan Fry were on target as Fawley RBL Reserves won 4-1 against Portsdown in Junior Division 4. Matt Giles replied.

Wade Wilson went nap as Junior Division 6 leaders Nursling thrashed

AFC Hedge End Town 12-2. Shaun New (4), Andrew Longland, Ryan Frampton and Steve Frampton also scored, with Ben Morton and Pat William replying.

Alex Clark and Brett Withey both scored twice as Winsor won 5-1 against Banister Park. Sam O'Reilly also scored for Winsor with Jamie Meredith replying.



BIRTHDAY: Ex-Saints striker James Beattie

Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges League

Midweek victory puts PSC on verge of colleges title

PETER Symonds are all but mathematically certain of lifting the Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges crown after beating Farnborough 2-1 in midweek.

It means they have established a virtually unassailable 13-point lead at the top, writes MIKE VIMPANY.

Their remaining three matches are against Andover, South Downs and Sparsholt.

Itchen have matches in hand – they like Farnborough and Barton Peveril – have 21 points.

But only if PSC suffer a catastrophic end of the season will the silverware surely go other than to the Winchester college, who have only dropped five points.

The manner in which they celebrated their hard fought midweek win was a sure sign of the importance of the occasion.

PSC had, after all, put their necks on the line by playing a six-point ‘double banker’ against Farnborough.

Had they lost, Itchen would have been right back in it.

Secondly, it was a potential Peter Munro Cup final dress rehearsal.

If Peter Symonds beat Brockenhurst in Wednesday’s semi-final at Bereeke Avenue (2pm), they will play Boro’ in the final.

The Farnborough match was a competitive, full blooded affair, sadly played on a poor surface, which – apart from the white lines being repainted – appears to have seen little maintenance all season.

The rough surface nullified the skills of the players on show; by good fortune, no one was injured.

PSC had the best chances of the first half, but Joel Drew and Harrison Faye missed them, often because the ball bobbed on the uneven surface as they were about to shoot.

Dan Muyambi was a constant threat for FB and, alongside Ryan Davey’s huge throws into the box, caused the most problems.

Peter Symonds did go in front before half-time, courtesy of Joel Drew, who picked up a cross from Faye and thudded it past Harry Warner, in the Boro’ goal.

But the PSC lead didn’t last.

Davey’s speculative 45-yard effort (difficult to describe as a shot) caught out the Symonds’ goalkeeper, who ought to have tipped it over the bar.

Instead, the ball hit the bar – and dropped invitingly on the head for Louis Paget for Farnborough’s equaliser.

Peter Symonds’ could have won it several times over after that, but their shots were wayward – apart from when Harry Bayles broke through to score the 2-1 winner.

The crowd invaded the pitch, PSC celebrated – and now the champagne is on ice!

Playing their first match since the 3-1 league and cup ‘double’ win at Itchen, Brockenhurst collapsed to a 3-0 defeat at Barton Peveril.



Peter Symonds goalscorers Harry Bayles (left) and Joel Drew (right)

Lewis Wild, Sam Morris, and Matt Bainbridge scored the BP goals to sink the cup semi-finalists.

Sparsholt drilled Queen Mary’s 6-0.

Richard Taunton College bounced back from their 3-1 defeat at Poole Grammar with a hard fought 2-0 win over Chichester.

Dylan Gain fluffed two early chances for RTC, but with Freddie Molyneux shoring up the defence and James Ferrier orchestrating the midfield, Tauntons controlled affairs.

Tom Ladbury gave RTC the lead – Molyneux playing a long ball through – and Maleek Gray settled it.

Second placed Poole didn’t play. It seems scheduled opponents Havant were unable to get a mini-bus for their trip to Dorset.

● ITCHEN travel to North London on Wednesday to play their English Colleges AOC Cup quarter-final tie against Barnet & Southgate.

The big game locally is Peter Symonds’ Peter Munro Cup semi-final tie against Brockenhurst at Bereeke Avenue, Winchester.

The winners will face Farnborough in the final.



ON TARGET: Barton Peveril's Lewis Wild, left

How the world saw Infantino's Fifa victory

SEPP Blatter and Vladimir Putin were among those to congratulate Gianni Infantino on becoming Fifa president.

Here is a look at reaction from key associations and organisations to his success.

Former Fifa president Sepp Blatter: “I’m happy that Gianni Infantino is president, a man from (the Swiss region of) Oberwallis like me. I drank some mulled wine with him at Christmas time, gave him tips.” (ZDF)

Football Association chairman Greg Dyke: “It’s been a corrupted organisation for a very long period of time. There’s a big job to be done. But at least we’ve got a reform programme and at least we’ve got a president in whom we can trust. (Infantino is) very competent, very organised, very together. Not a showman, but good fun. He has got a lot of qualities and it will be very good for Fifa.” (Sky News)

Asian Football Confederation president and beaten Fifa candidate Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim al Khalifa: “The AFC looks forward to working with the new-look Fifa and its new president Gianni Infantino in order to reform the world football governing body and to reinstate football’s credibility globally.”

Russia president Vladimir Putin (Russia hosts the 2018 World Cup): “Your active and fruitful activities within international sports organisations and significant personal contribution to developing the football movement have rightfully brought you a high level of authority. I am confident that your professional experience and extensive creative and organisational potential will help you in your new office, and serve to strengthen Fifa’s positions in the world. I would like to confirm Russia’s readiness to continue constructive cooperation with Fifa, particularly in preparing for the 2018 Fifa World Cup.”

UEFA executive committee: “The UEFA executive committee wishes to congratulate Gianni Infantino on winning today’s Fifa presidential election and is very much looking forward to working closely with him to promote, protect and develop football around the world.”

Professional Footballers’ Association chief executive Gordon Taylor: “Our sincere congratulations to Gianni Infantino as new president of Fifa. We supported him and hope he justifies that support in turning Fifa into a transparent accountable and responsible governing body for world football.”



Gianni Infantino

Capital One Cup final preview

Two thirds of Liverpool's cup goals came at St Mary's!

● Manchester City have been in fine goalscoring form en-route to the final, netting 17 times in their five matches. Liverpool have managed just nine, although they did notch up a 6-1 win over Southampton in their quarter-final.

● This will be the 56th League Cup final - the first was won by Aston Villa after a two-legged success over Rotherham in 1961.

● 23 different teams have lifted the

League Cup, with Liverpool having taken the silverware a record eight times. City have won it on three occasions.

● Liverpool's first win came in 1981, the first of four in succession. Their most recent was when they beat Cardiff on penalties after a 2-2 draw in 2012.

● City's latest success in the competition came when they beat Sunderland 3-1 in the 2014 final. Their previous victories came in 1970 and

1976.

● The most goals scored in a one-legged League Cup final is five - with Swansea's 5-0 win over fourth tier Bradford in 2013 being the most recent time this occurred. Ex-Saint Nathan Dyer scored two of them.

● The final has gone to extra time on 18 occasions.

● The first six finals were played over two legs.

● Replays for finals were abolished after the 1996-97 season, with the winners in the event of a draw after extra time since settled by penalty shoot-outs.

● Leicester (1997) were the last side to win after a replay.

● Capital One are the seventh title sponsor of the competition following Milk, Littlewoods, Rumblebeams, Coca-Cola, Worthington and Carling.

Wembley win could act as big springboard for Klopp

THE managers themselves may prefer the focus on the players, but this weekend's Capital One Cup final will see plenty of attention fall on the men in charge.

For Manuel Pellegrini it is a chance to put another trophy in the Manchester City cabinet and enhance his legacy as he prepares to make way for Pep Guardiola in the summer.

Jurgen Klopp is still in the infancy of his Liverpool reign, but, after silverware eluded his predecessor Brendan Rodgers and ultimately had a bearing in his dismissal, landing something tangible now would provide nice vindication of his early work.

It would be wrong to read too much into the significance of victory for either man - after all, Kenny Dalglish vacated the Anfield hotseat just three months after guiding the Reds to success in the competition in 2012.

Victories for Michael Laudrup with Swansea in 2013 and Jose Mourinho at Chelsea last season also proved no guarantee of longevity.

But as Pellegrini himself discovered two years ago, winning can provide a springboard to greater things.

City's success in 2014 was followed by a late charge to pip Liverpool to the Barclays Premier League.

And, after stumbling on the title front in recent weeks, City need a lift as they look to round off the Pellegrini era on a glorious high.

Pellegrini has helped City progress since taking over from Roberto Mancini in 2013.

He restored harmony in an apparently fractious dressing room and not only won two trophies in his first season but has improved their standing in the Champions League.

The club have now decided they need Guardiola to take them on the next stage of their journey, but the Chilean will not want all his good work to fizzle out.

City started the season as if they would steamroller all before them, winning their first five games without conceding a goal, but they have lacked consistency, and looked vulnerable in many games, since.

Yet with their proven quality, they may only need a spark to launch a strong charge. Cup victory could



League Cup final bosses Jurgen Klopp, left, and Manuel Pellegrini.

provide that and it would be interesting to see how much hunger remains within the current squad.

With Guardiola's arrival imminent, changes could be coming and some players have points to prove and futures to play for.

There could be question marks over several members of an ageing squad and that would even include the likes of Yaya Toure, David Silva and Pablo Zabaleta, all of whom have been vital to City's recent success.

Much of that sentiment could apply to Liverpool, although, unlike at City, it will be the current manager overseeing any overhaul.

Klopp refrained from making drastic changes in the January transfer window but he may look on things differently in the summer when he has time to take stock.

Klopp's Liverpool have shown in flashes - not least when they dismantled City 4-1 at the Etihad in November - what they could be capable of

after the German has had longer to bed in.

But in the short term, Klopp has quickly built a rapport with the fans and a trophy would only increase his popularity.

It is a game that could go either way, as City's Raheem Sterling coming up against the club he left in an acrimonious £49million deal last summer.

The battle on the touchline, however, will be an intriguing one.

Routes to League Cup final

ROUTES TO THE LEAGUE CUP FINAL

LIVERPOOL

3rd rd v Carlisle (H) 1-1 (AET) (won on pens)
After Danny Ings' second goal in as many games was cancelled out by Derek Asamoah, the match went to spot-kicks where debutant Adam Bogdan was their hero with three saves.

4th rd v Cherries (H) 1-0
Jurgen Klopp's first victory as Liverpool manager was secured via the unlikely sources - a goal from ex-Saint Nathaniel Clyne, who was playing in an unfamiliar left-back position.

QF v Saints (A) 6-1
Fit-again Daniel Sturridge inspired a stunning victory, hitting two goals to put his team in control after Sadio Mane headed Saints into a first-minute lead. Divock Origi (3) and Jordan Ibe also netted.

SF 1st leg Stoke (A) 1-0
Ibe's first-half winner saw Klopp's men draw first blood.

SF 2nd leg Stoke (H) 0-1 (agg 1-1, won 6-5 on pens)
Joe Allen was the penalty shoot-out hero as his spot-kick sent Liverpool to Wembley after a tense second leg. Marko Arnautovic's controversial offside goal took the match into extra time and eventually penalties.

MANCHESTER CITY

3rd rd v Sunderland (A) 4-1
Sergio Aguero started the ball rolling from the penalty spot, before Kevin De Bruyne, Vito Mannone's own goal and Raheem Sterling made it 4-0 by the break.

3rd rd v Crystal Palace (H) 5-1
Wilfried Bony and Kelechi Iheanacho were among the goalscorers. The former started the rout, with Iheanacho getting in on the act after Kevin De Bruyne netted. Yaya Toure added a fourth from the penalty spot and sub Manu Garcia rounded off a good night's work with a fifth in stoppage time.

QF v Hull (H) 4-1
An early goal from Bony should have been the platform for a comfortable win, but it was not until a strike from teenage sub Iheanacho and a De Bruyne brace in the last 10 minutes that the match was wrapped up.

SF 1st leg v Everton (A) 1-2
In-form Romelu Lukaku's 12th goal in as many matches gave Everton a deserved first-leg victory. Ramiro Funes Mori had given the hosts the lead, before sub Jesus Navas levelled.

SF 2nd leg v Everton (H) 3-1 (won 4-3 on agg)
Ross Barkley put Everton ahead, only for City to reply through Fernandinho. Controversy erupted as Sterling appeared to take the ball out of play before teeing up sub De Bruyne to level the tie, with Aguero completing City's fightback.



Sadio Mane puts Saints ahead against Liverpool.



Finn 'gutted' to miss out on World T20

ENGLAND have suffered a significant blow in their preparations for the ICC World Twenty20 after announcing Steven Finn has been ruled out with a strain to his left calf.

The paceman was expected to lead the attack in the forthcoming global tournament in India, despite missing the limited-overs legs of the recently-concluded South Africa tour due to a side strain.

However, the 26-year-old has suffered a fresh injury setback and his place has been taken by Yorkshire's Liam Plunkett in the 15-man squad.

Finn posted on Twitter: "Really disappointed to have picked up another injury on my road to recovery. Gutted doesn't describe it. Good luck to the guys out there!"

Finn's recent injury troubles began when he missed the entire Pakistan series in the United Arab Emirates because of a foot problem.

He was slated to miss the start of the South Africa tour but proved his fitness with the England Lions in the UAE and played the first three Tests against the Proteas, only for another injury to curtail his

involvement. Yet England head coach Trevor Bayliss was optimistic Finn, who has taken 27 wickets in 21 T20 international at an average of 21.59, would be fit enough to be their pace spearhead in India.

His latest misfortune gives an opportunity to Plunkett, who will be the only member of England's touring party over the age of 29.

England, champions in 2010, head out to India on March 8 and will face Sri Lanka, South Africa, West Indies and a qualifier in the group stage of the competition.

Tributes are paid to former Hants Schools cricket boss

LOCAL cricket has said its farewells to Peter Lewin, the former Bellemoor schoolmaster who managed scores of Hampshire Schools' teams for over three decades from the 1960s onwards.

He died recently after a long illness, aged 83, writes Mike Vimpany.

Highfield Church was packed yesterday for a memorial service as former colleagues and numerous cricketers who had played for his county Under-13, Under-14 and Under-15 sides paid their respects during a celebration of Peter's life.

A graduate of St Luke's College, Exeter, Peter Lewin taught at Bellemoor School in Southampton, where spent his career teaching geography – and, naturally, taking charge of cricket!

Watchful eye

An old boy of St Mary's College, Bitterne and later an Old Simmarians, Peter was introduced to county schools cricket in the 1960s by Cyril Cooper, then the General Secretary of ESCA and Manager/Secretary of the HSCA U15s.

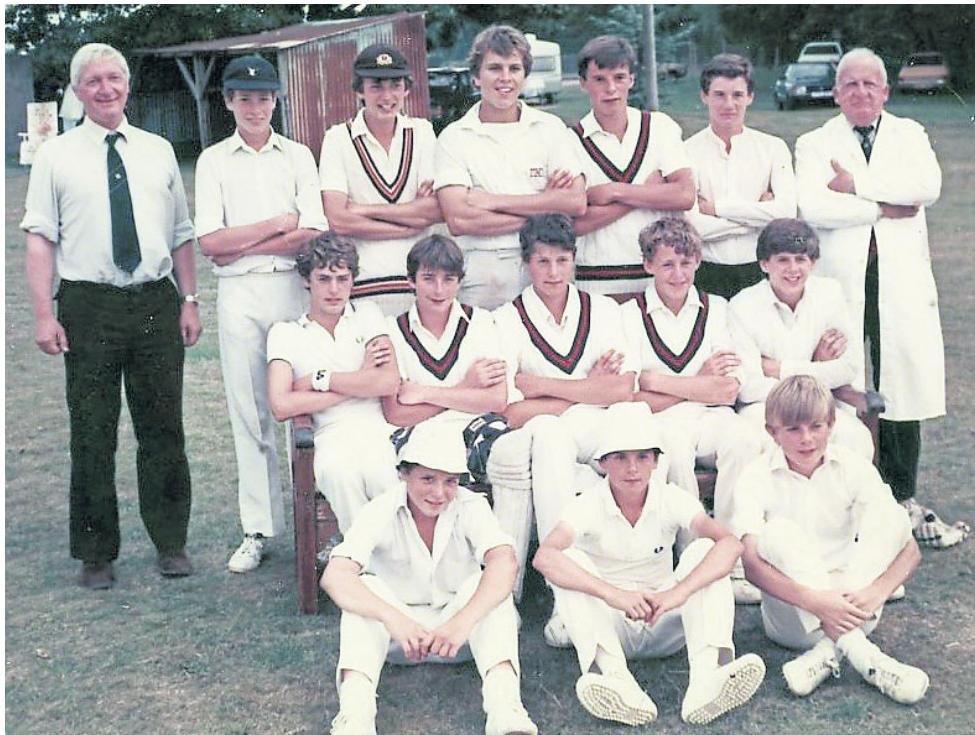
Remarkably, he ran three county schools representative teams – the U13, 14 and 15 sides for 30 years or more, and became a selector/manager for the West of England.

The likes of Tim Tremlett, Adrian Aymes, John Barnard, Dominic Carson, Ian Chivers, Paul Draper, Dave Hacker, Martin Kellaway, Tim Ludlow, Terry Morton, Chris Thomason and Simon Williams were just some of the pupils who became representative cricketers under his watchful eye.

Lucky

Tremlett, who later went on to join the county staff at Northlands Road and play over 400 times for Hampshire, recalled: "I was at Bellemoor in the late Sixties and early 1970s. Peter was the Manager of the Southampton Schools and Hampshire Schools Under-13 & Under-15 XI's at this time and this continued through the 1980's.

"The scheduling of fixtures and arranging of accommodation and transport would have taken up an enormous amount of his time in



Peter Lewin (far left, back row) pictured with a Hampshire Schools team of the early 1980s. The HSCA team included Lymington's Guy Andrew (back, centre), Jon Gillespie (KES), Lymington left-hander Derek Pepperell, skipper Charles Forward (middle row, centre) and Calmore Sports/Hursley Park batsman Martin Kellaway. The late Len Burraston is the umpire.

addition to his job as a Geography teacher.

"We were particularly lucky back then as dedicated teachers took time out to hold coaching sessions and matches after school."

"This is sadly lacking today as youngsters are encouraged to join local clubs rather than participate in after school activities."

"I remember Peter playing for Southampton Cricket Club, who played their home matches at Studland Road, Southampton, with the team comprising mainly teachers and young school cricketers.

"One of the young players, Lee

Desty, who also attended Bellemoor School, was until just over a year ago the Editor of the BBC's South Today programme."

The school summer holidays always started with the U15 tour to the West Country. Peter then liked to drive off to the Alps for a week to recuperate!

Jubilee pancake

Trojans opening batsman Simon Williams recalled: "He took me up and down the country for four years in his gleaming white Audi."

"I also went on the West Country tour; every journey bar none we would stop at a little cafe for a jubi-

lee pancake!"

"He gave a lot during his summer holidays ferrying players to all parts."

All-day declaration games were the order of the day. On tour, Peter reckoned the chances of victory were greatly increased - if he was able to complete the Telegraph crossword by lunch.

Somewhat shy and quiet, Peter was nevertheless a very good judge of a cricketer.

A generation of Hampshire and Isle of Wight schoolboy cricketers owe their opportunity to Peter Lewin.

Gidman forced to retire

WORCESTERSHIRE batsman and former Gloucestershire captain Alex Gidman has announced his retirement from cricket due to an injury to his left index finger.

The 34-year-old, who moved to the Pears 18 months ago after more than a decade at Gloucestershire, skipping the county from 2009 until 2012, suffered the problem during a pre-match fielding drill at Durham towards the end of last season.

The initial recovery did not go as planned and despite having a last-resort joint replacement that, it was hoped, would allow him to resume his career, he decided to retire following medical advice.

Gidman, who made 11,622 runs in 204 first-class matches, said on Worcestershire's official website: "It is with great sadness that I have no choice but to retire from the sport that has given me so much."

"I have been really lucky to have played for so long and I have so many great memories. I'm excited about the future but will miss the game."

● SUSSEX have announced that club stalwart Chris Nash has extended his stay at the county for a further three seasons.

The 32-year-old, who has developed into a crucial performer at the top of the order in all three formats for the south-coast club, has signed a contract extension to his current deal to remain at the BrightonandHoveJobs.com County Ground until the end of the 2018 season.

It continues a long association with Sussex for Nash, who made his debut for the club in 2002 and has gone on to play over 150 first-class matches and 228 limited-overs matches for his local side.

● AUSTRALIA bowler Ben Hilfenhaus has announced his retirement from first class cricket.

The 32-year-old, who has confirmed he will continue to play Twenty20, claimed health reasons were behind the decision, announced at a press conference on Wednesday.

Hilfenhaus, quoted by Cricket Tasmania, said: "I feel like I have been blessed and honoured to represent Tasmania and Australia. It was a childhood dream & I'm very grateful."

The right-arm paceman played a total of 104 first class matches. He took 99 wickets in 27 Tests, making his debut in 2009 against South Africa.

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THE RACING WEEK AHEAD

Monday: Jump racing at Ayr and Plumpton with the Dawn Homes Part Exchange Handicap Hurdle Race (Qualifier For The Challenger Staying Hurdle Series Final) up in Scotland set to feature some promising types. By some distance the most valuable race of the day is at Wolverhampton where nearly £20,000 is on offer for the Coral Handicap Stakes over the best part of 10 furlongs.

Tuesday: Catterick has a succession of decent two-mile handicap chases throughout the winter and the Easby Abbey Handicap Chase is another. The going at Leicester has been pretty desperate all year but there is still £15,000 on offer in the Leicestershire Open Hunters' Steeple Chase, one of the most valuable races of its type. Lingfield takes centre stage, though, with the British Stallion Studs/32Red EBF Fillies' Conditions Stakes. The one-mile race is worth £27,000.

Wednesday: Wincanton stages a decent 0-135 handicap chase and a 0-130 handicap hurdle, while Bangor hosts similar events. At Kempton in the evening there is the The 32Red/EBF Stallions Breeding Fillies' Handicap Stakes, another valuable event with the All-Weather Championships looming. Wolverhampton also race in the afternoon.

Thursday: No doubt the best race of the day, the Totrefecta Conditions Stakes (All-Weather Championships Fast-Track Qualifier) worth a whopping £25,000. Ludlow always make a good effort with prize money and the 0-140 Forbra Gold Cup Handicap Chase is worth £20,000 on its own. There are also a couple of decent races at Taunton, while Southwell also race.

Friday: Newbury opens its doors again but for one of its more low-key fixtures. Doncaster caters for the north with the Betbright Casino Mares' Handicap Hurdle Race (Qualifier For The Challenger Mares' Hurdle Series Final) the main event. Yet again the all-weather racing dwarfs the jumping prize-money, with £19,00 up for grabs in the Ladbrokes Handicap Stakes at Lingfield and the same amount at Wolverhampton for the Download The New Unibet Racing App Conditions Stakes (All-Weather Championship Fast-Track Qualifier).

Saturday: Jump racing springs to life with the BetBright Grimthorpe at Doncaster and the Greatwood Gold Cup at Newbury, but all eyes will be on Kelso where Grand National hero Many Clouds is due to have his prep for this year's race in the Totepooliveinfo.Com Premier Chase. The Borders track can also expect a good field for the Grade Two Totescooper6 Premier Kelso Hurdle Race. Lingfield's the 32Red Spring Cup Stakes (All-Weather Championship Fast-Track Qualifier) will be ultra-competitive, and it's 'Super Saturday' at Meydan.

Sunday: As ever the best racing on a Sunday is in Ireland with Naas staging the Leinster National and the Directors Plate Novice Chase on a good card. Huntingdon has a National of its own, the Cambridgeshire one.

FIXTURES (Flat in capitals)

Monday: Aye, Plumpton, WOLVERHAMPTON

Tuesday: Catterick, Leicester, LINGFIELD

Wednesday: Bangor, KEMPTON, Wincanton, WOLVERHAMPTON

Thursday: CHELMSFORD, Ludlow,

Hampshire sign box

IT IS AN INNINGS WHICH REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE IN THE HISTORY OF CRICKET.

And it was scored by a 16-year-old making only his second ever ODI appearance in November 1996.

Shahid Afridi announced his ability to the world by blasting a century off only 37 deliveries against Sri Lanka in Nairobi.

The 11 sixes he hit equalled the world record for an ODI innings and Pakistan's 371 total was, at the time, the second highest in ODI history.

Almost 20 years on, Afridi remains box office material.

No wonder Hampshire were delighted to reveal this week that the mercurial all-rounder is on his way back to The Ageas Bowl this summer.

Afridi is available for the whole of the county's NatWest Blast campaign, and should help keep the turnstiles ticking at the West End venue.

He held the record for the fastest ODI hundred for many years.

It was finally broken by New Zealand's Corey Anderson on New Year's Day 2014 when he reached three figures in 36 balls.

The record is now held by South African AB de Villiers who made an astonishing century from just 31 balls in January 2015 against the West Indies.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at some of the highlights of Afridi's career.

● Afridi's highest ever score in 203 T20 matches came while playing for Hampshire.

He showed he is a man for the big occasion with a 42-ball 80 against Somerset in the T20 semi final at Edgbaston in 2011.

Afridi blitzed five sixes and six fours in his 51-minute innings, but Hampshire were restricted to 138-4 after 15.5 overs following rain.

Dramatic

The match was taken into a dramatic Super Over after Somerset had tied it with 94-6 under the Duckworth/Lewis method.

Craig Kieswetter and Jos Buttler cracked 16 off their six balls, with Afridi and Jimmy Adams then given the task of trying to beat it and secure the holders a second successive final.

Afridi could only manage a boundary off the first three deliveries from Alfonso Thomas, though, before he was dismissed off the fourth.

Adams could only muster a single off the fifth ball and James Vince failed to score off the last – Somerset easily progressing to the final.

● Afridi's highest T20 innings for his country also arrived on a big stage. In fact, the biggest T20 stage of them all – the 2009 World Cup fi-



Dominic Cork celebrates taking the wicket of Chris Liddle in a T20 win against Sussex in 2011.



Shahid Afridi in celebratory pose for Hampshire at The Ageas Bowl in 2011.

nal against Sri Lanka at Lord's.

Relying to Sri Lanka's 138-6 total, Afridi came in at number three and was still there at the close as Pakistan triumphed by eight wickets with eight balls left.

He ended undefeated on 54 from 40 balls, though by his standards

he was reasonably restrained with just two sixes and two fours at headquarters.

● Afridi's second highest T20 innings came last December, in what was his eighth and last half-century in the shortest form of the game.

Coming in at number six for Sylhet in the Bangladesh Premier League against Chittagong, Afridi struck five fours and four sixes in a 41-ball 62.

That helped his side total 139-9, a total Chittagong passed without losing a wicket.

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office hit in Afridi



Shahid Afridi at The Ageas Bowl in 2011.



Shahid Afridi celebrates taking the wicket of Luke Wright during his spell with Hampshire five years ago.

Afridi's score was his first half-century in T20 cricket for three years.

● Afridi bagged five wickets in a T20 game for the first time on only his second ever appearance for Hampshire.

Appearing against Gloucester-

shire at The Ageas Bowl in the summer of 2011, the all-rounder claimed 5-20 as the visitors were dismissed for 107 chasing 140 for victory.

In his third outing for Hampshire, Afridi was voted man of the match for his all round efforts against Sussex at The Ageas Bowl.

First off, he struck 29 off 17 balls as an opener alongside Michael Lumb as Hampshire reached 126-8.

Afridi then claimed 3-10 off three overs, dismissing top scorer and dangerman Luke Wright and New Zealander Lou Vincent.

● Afridi's first taste of English

cricket came in the summer of 2001 when he signed for Leicestershire.

In five first-class matches he scored 295 runs at an average of 42.14, including a highest score of 164, and took 11 wickets at an average of 46.45;

Afridi also played 11 one day matches for the club, scoring 481 runs at an average of 40.08 and taking 18 wickets at 24.04.

He was voted man of the match in both the quarter final and semi final of the C & G Trophy.

In the last eight, he smashed 67 off 44 balls against Worcestershire at New Road.

He surpassed that by blitzing 95 off 58 deliveries as Leicestershire beat Lancashire by seven wickets to reach the Lord's final.

● Afridi was named man of the match when Pakistan won a T20 international against England in Bristol in 2006.

After England had posted 144-7, Afridi came in at No 4 for the tourists and smacked 28 off just ten balls – hammering five fours and a six in his rapid innings.

Pakistan eventually won by five wickets with over two overs in hand.

● In December 2006, Afridi won another man of the match award following another display of rapid hitting.

He smote 49 off just 19 balls – with three fours and five sixes – to help Karachi Dolphins beat Peshawar and reach the final of the ABN-AMRO Twenty-20 Cup held in his native country.

● Afridi, though, is far more than just a big-hitting batsman.

In April 2009, he returned career best ODI bowling figures of 6-38 as Australia were bowled out for 168 in Dubai.

Afridi then cracked 24 off 16 balls as Pakistan romped to a five-wicket victory.

● His all-round talents were on show only last month playing for his country in a T20 international against New Zealand.

He initially hammered 23 off eight balls to help Pakistan totl 171.

He then claimed 2-26, took three catches and also produced a run-out as the Kiwis fell short - winning the man of the match award in the process.

Afridi's most recent man of the match award came while playing for Peshawar in the Pakistan Super League on February 16.

He claimed career best T20 bowling figures of 5-7 from four overs in a win against the Quetta Gladiators.

● Afridi has appeared in an astonishing 393 ODIs for Pakistan, but only made 27 Test appearances - the last coming in 2010. He has appeared in 203 T20 games for club and country.

Rashford the latest to enjoy dream debut

EIGHTEEN-year-old Marcus Rashford scored twice on his Manchester United debut to earn them a 5-1 Europa League win over FC Midtjylland at Old Trafford on Thursday.

He had only been called into the starting line-up shortly before kick-off when Anthony Martial picked up an injury.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at four other strikers who have enjoyed dream debuts for the Red Devils.

Wayne Rooney

The teenager signed from Everton guaranteed himself instant hero status with a hat-trick in a 6-2 win over Fenerbahce in the Champions League in September 2004, becoming the youngest player to score a treble in the competition aged 18 years and 335 days.

He scored his first two with smart strikes in the opening half-hour and added his third with a fine free-kick early in the second half.

Federico Macheda

The Italian, aged 17, came off the bench in a Premier League clash with Aston Villa in April 2009 and scored a brilliant last-gasp winner to earn the



Manchester United's Marcus Rashford (39) celebrates.

hosts a 3-2 win, turning on the edge of the area and curling home an unstoppable shot.

However, it was not a sign of things to come as Macheda had a host of loan spells before leaving permanently for Cardiff in 2014.

James Wilson

Wilson scored twice in a 3-1 win at home to Hull in May 2014, netting with a near-post half-volley and then following up to score after a Marouane Fellaini shot. He joined Brighton on loan until the end of the season in November.

Anthony Martial

The Frenchman, signed from Monaco for a world-record fee for a teenager, hit the ground running, coming off the bench to score in a 3-1 home win over Liverpool. Introduced as a second-half substitute, the 19-year-old scored a superb individual goal in the 86th minute, weaving between Liverpool defenders before shooting home in front of the Stretford End.

Handed his first start the following week at St Mary's, Martial continued his great start to life in the Premier League by scoring twice in United's 3-2 victory.

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SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

Barclays Premier League

Leicester	1	Norwich	0
Udo 89			
HT 0-0		Att 32,114	
SAINTS	1	Chelsea	2
Long 42		Fabregas 75 Ivanovic 89 Att 31,688	
HT 1-0		Bacca 79 Att 27,700	
Stoke	2	A. Villa	1
Armasovic 51 pen, 56		Bacca 79 Att 27,700	
HT 0-0		HT 0-0	
Watford	0	AFC Bournemouth	0
HT 0-0		Maddison 12 pen	
W.B.A.	L	Crystal P	L
HT 1-L		HT 1-L	
West Ham	1	Sunderland	0
Antonio 30		Holt 61	
HT 1-0		Att 34,946	

Crewe vs Barnsley

Crewe	1	Barnsley	2
Guthrie 32		Winnall 53 Mawson 67 Att 4,451	
HT 1-0			
Doncaster	1	Millwall	1
Chaplow 37		Morrison 6 Att 6,810	
HT 1-1			
Gillingham	1	Chesterfield	2
Osaobe 80		Ebanks-Blake 36 Novak 45 Att 6,012	
HT 0-2			
Peterboro	1	Swindon	2
HT 0-2		Ajose 49 Doughty 82 Att 5,124	
Rochdale	2	Sheff Utd	0
Vincenti 67		HT 0-0	
W.B.A.	L	Crystal P	L
HT 1-L		HT 1-L	
West Ham	1	Sunderland	0
Antonio 30		Att 4,210	
HT 1-0			
Scunthorpe	1	Oldham	1
Wootton 88		Lafferty 78 Att 4,180	
HT 0-0			
Wigan	3	Bury	0
HT 3-0		Att 9,490	

HOME AWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Leicester	27	8	4	1	22	13	56		8	4	2	27	16	56	
Tottenham	26	7	4	2	23	9	51		7	5	1	24	11	51	
Arsenal	26	8	3	2	18	8	51		7	3	3	23	15	51	
Man City	26	9	1	4	35	17	51		5	4	3	13	11	47	
West Ham	27	6	2	2	21	14	43		5	5	4	20	17	43	
Man Utd	26	6	4	2	15	25	41		4	5	4	19	14	40	
SAINTS	27	7	2	5	24	15	40		4	4	11	1	41	40	
Stoke	27	6	5	1	15	14	39		5	4	5	4	19	39	
Liverpool	26	5	6	1	16	17	38		6	3	3	22	19	38	
Watford	27	5	4	5	13	11	37		5	3	5	6	16	37	
Chelsea	27	5	4	2	26	21	36		4	4	5	14	16	36	
Everton	26	4	4	6	27	23	35		3	7	2	7	21	35	
Crystal P	24	2	8	15	19	5	34		12	3	13	32			
W.B.A.	24	2	5	15	18	5	34		12	3	13	32			
Bournemouth	27	3	4	6	15	21	29		4	4	6	15	23	29	
Swansea	24	5	5	3	13	18	27		2	4	6	11	16	27	
Norwich	27	4	5	18	20	2	2		10	12	31	24			
Newcastle	26	4	5	4	20	18	24		2	1	10	7	31	24	
Sunderland	27	4	3	6	15	14	23		2	2	10	17	37	23	
A. Villa	27	2	4	7	10	20	16		1	3	10	11	28	16	

SkyBet Championship

Blackburn	3	M K Dons	2
Gomez 53, 90		Carruthers 36	
Bennett 71		Revel 86	
HT 0-1		Att 12,693	
Bolton	1	Burnley	2
Feeley 69		Gray 74, 85	
HT 0-0		Att 17,484	
Cardiff	2	Preston	1
Pilkington 44 pen, 80 pen		Robinson 87	
HT 1-0		Att 15,566	
Charlton	3	Reading	4
Sanogo 7, 49, 84		Kermorgant 4, 35	
HT 1-3		John 42	
Fulham	0	Middlesbro	2
Adomah 3		Leadbitter 20 pen	
HT 0-2		Att 18,662	
Huddersfd	0	Ipswich	1
Pringle 19		Att 12,644	
HT 0-1			
Nottm For	1	Bristol C	2
Osborn 30		Kodjia 41	
HT 1-1		Filt 70	
Q.P.R.	2	Birmingham	0
Chery 35		Att 20,551	
Hollett 39 pen		Att 17,110	
HT 2-0			
Rotherham	2	Brentford	1
Derbyshire 29		Judge 43	
D Ward 71		Att 8,534	
HT 1-1			
Wolves	2	Derby Cty	1
Saville 14, 86		Martin 44	
HT 1-1		Att 19,389	

SkyBet League Two

AFC Wimbledon	1	Oxford Utd	2
Barcham 33		Hilton 5	
HT 1-1		Bowry 59	
Acc Stanley	2	Barnet	2
Kee 57		Gambin 81	
Crook 74		Akindo 90	
HT 0-0		Att 4,628	
Dagenham	0	Yeovil	1
O'Brien 53		Goodship 50	
HT 0-0		Att 2,942	
Hartlepool	0	Northmptn	0
HT 0-0		Att 4,012	
Leyton O.	2	Crawley	0
Ellison 27		Wyke 83 pen	
HT 1-0		Att 4,610	
Morecambe	1	Carlisle	2
Gould 42, 71		Asamoah 84	
HT 0-0		Att 3,070	
Newport County	1	Mansfield	0
Boden 86		Moore 45	
HT 0-0		Att 3,070	
Plymouth	1	Notts Cnty	0
Carey 47		Att 7,642	
HT 0-0			
POMPEY	2	Cambridge	1
McNulty 41		Berry 90	
Webster 62		Stockley 84, 90	
HT 1-0		Att 15,425	
Stevenage	0	Exeter	2
HT 0-0		Stockley 84, 90	
Wycombe	1	Bristol R.	0
O'Nien 65		Att 2,812	
HT 0-0			
York	2	Luton	3
Fewster 62, 82		McGeehan 52	
HT 0-0		Martini 74	
Burnley	3	Blackburn	2
32 11 3 2 3 3 12		8 4 4 20 12 64	
Derby Ct 31		5 10 2 22 19 60	
HT 0-0		Derby Ct 31	
Middlesb	31	Bristol C	27
32 11 3 2 3 3 15		5 6 4 20 17 57	
HT 0-0		HT 0-0	
Cardiff	34	Birmingham	1
34 9 7 1 2 27 15		6 7 4 18 23 52	
HT 0-0		HT 0-0	
Ipswich	33	Wolves	2
33 6 4 20 17		8 3 6 21 23 51	
HT 0-0		HT 0-0	
Preston	34	Brentford	1
34 7 6 4 17 15		5 6 6 16 17 48	
HT 0-0		HT 0-0	
Q.P.R.	2	Derby Cty	1
34 6 8 3 26 20		4 6 7 15 20 44	
Reading	33	7 3 18 10	
33 7 3 18 10		4 3 9 20 26 43	
HT 0-0		HT 0-0	
Wolves	34	Burnley	2
34 5 6 6 22 24		6 4 7 20 23 43	
HT 0-0		HT 0-0	
Brentford	34	Blackburn	24
34 7 3 7 23 24		5 4 6 18 24 43	
HT 0-0		HT 0-0	
Huddersfd	34	Birmingham	23
34 6 4 7 25 26		5 4 5 19 20 44	
HT 0-0		HT 0-0	
Nottm For	34	Wolves	23
34 6 5 21 26		4 5 6 20 26 43	
HT 0-0		HT 0-0	
W.B.A.	34	Brentford	22
34 6 4 7 25 26		4 5 6 20 26 43	
HT 0-0		HT 0-0	
Charlton	34	Derby Cty	22
34 4 9 19 19		0 4 13 33 25	
HT 0-0		HT 0-0	
Blackpool	0	Bradford	1
Reid 54		Reid 54	
HT 0-0		Att 8,780	
Burton Albion	0	Walsall	0
HT 0-0		Att 5,512	
Colchester	0	Shrewsbry	0
HT 0-0		Att 3,057	
Coventry	1	Fleetwood Town	2
Tudgay 75		Burns 56	
HT 0-0		Ball 83	
M K Dons	3	Charlton	2
HT 0-0		Att 11,160	

SkyBet League One

Blackpool	0	Bradford	1
Reid 54		Reid 54	
HT 0-0		Att 8,780	
Burton Albion	0	Walsall	0
HT 0-0		Att 5,512	
Colchester	0	Shrewsbry	0
HT 0-0		Att 3,057	
Coventry	1	Fleetwood Town	2
Tudgay 75		Burns 56	
HT 0-0		Ball 83	
M K Dons	3	Charlton	2
HT 0-0		Att 11,160	

POOL CHECK

1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	2

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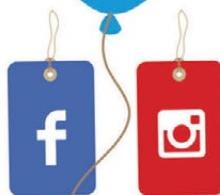
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